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THURSDAY, MARCH 11TH, 2010

PERMANENT RESIDENTS ALLOWED TO STAY...

Victory for Bryneithin care home campaign!

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

THE Keep Bryneithin Open Group has claimed victory in its campaign to keep the Dinas Powys care home open.

It means that long-term residents such as 89-year-old Arthur Samuel, who recently received his Veteran's Badge for service with the Rifle Brigade in World War Two, will see out his days in a place that has become a second home to him.

A legal challenge by the residents' relatives on the basis of "anticipatory breach of contract" led to the Vale Council making the decision to shelve closure.

The residents had signed contracts agreeing to a home for life.

A decision to close the home was made by the Vale Council on December 2, with the council proposing that residents move to Ty Dyfan in Barry, or an alternative choice of home.

Mr Samuel's daughter Margo Farbrace, the chairwoman of the Keep Bryneithin Open Group, said: "We're ecstatic and have fought hard for this.

"I'm delighted my father can stay in the place he calls home, with the quality of life he has become used to. The manager and the staff are like family."

Mrs Farbrace said it would be "shortsighted" if the council failed to use any available beds for other people suffering from dementia or for respite care.

Sylvia Bowen, whose 86-year-old mother Kathleen is a long-term resident, could hardly believe that there had been an eleventh hour reprieve.

"For my mother it is going to be a new lease of life. It is as if a huge weight has been lifted – all the relatives have been worried sick.

"Now, rather than campaigning, we can start The Friends of Bryneithin again and raise funds for the home.

"We want to thank The GEM for keeping the issue in the spotlight.

"It is time for us to have a party!"

Bryneithin is the only specialist home for people with dementia in the Vale, and relatives had repeatedly claimed that moving them would be dangerous for their health.

Jane Hutt, the Vale's Assembly Member, also pointed out that the council should make full use of the facility.

(*Continued on page 3*)

ABOVE: On Friday night, the Keep Bryneithin Open Group was still out protesting – but unknown to them, the battle to save the home had already been won.

Barry car dealer guilty of murder

Unanimous verdict by jury

A SECONDHAND car dealer, who stabbed a man twice through the heart, was found guilty of murder at Cardiff Crown yesterday, and is due to be sentenced today.

John Chivers (30) was charged with murdering Paul Michael Jones, but had told the jury: "I didn't deliberately plunge that knife into him."

Chivers who had a leg amputated below the knee following a car crash, said that what happened was a "tragic accident".

He also said: "I didn't intend causing him serious injury and I didn't intend to kill him".

Chivers, of Cardiff Road, Barry, who at the time was staying in Columbus Close, where the incident occurred on the night of August 3 last year, pleaded not guilty to the murder of 41-year-old Mr Jones, a married man.

Prosecutor Michael Chambers said the two men were involved in a dispute outside the home of Chivers' girlfriend, Dominique Fitzgerald, and seconds after obtaining a carving knife from her kitchen, he stabbed Mr Jones twice.

In evidence, Chivers said that Mr Jones, known as Jonah, delivered the first punch and he told him to calm down,

Chivers said he was six foot two inches tall, and Mr Jones five feet five.

He became worried when another man punched him as Mr Jones said: "You are ******* dead."

Things turned nasty, he continued, when Mr Jones obtained an iron bar and, to scare him off, said Chivers, he took the knife which he jabbed at him to keep him away.

He said he didn't feel the knife come into contact with Mr Jones, and first realised what he had done when he fell in the road saying "You have stabbed me you ****"

Chivers said: "I didn't know what to do, it was horrible. I didn't want anything like this to happen to me and my world fell apart."

He said he left the scene, obtained heroin, and next remembered waking up in hospital.

What happened, he said, made him feel devastated, and he didn't regard Mr Jones with contempt and as "rubbish".

The jury returned a unanimous verdict that Chivers was guilty of murder.

...But battle to save Theatre Royal goes on

MEMBERS of the Save Our Cinema Association (SOCA) have met the leader of the Vale Council, Coun Gordon Kemp, to underline the group's determination to bring back big screen entertainment to the Theatre Royal.

SOCA supporter Paul Sutton, said: "The Leader of the Vale Council told us that there was no new planning application on the Theatre Royal site, and said it would be nice for it to be a cinema again.

"He did point out that it was under private ownership, and that if planning applications were made they would have to be considered on their merits.

"It is frustrating for the group because the ball is in the owner's court, but there never seems to be any movement."

Mr Sutton said he understood the council's concern in the event of the building deteriorating, but emphasised:"There has been a strengthening in public support for our campaign recently."

Last month, The GEM revealed that SOCA is considering two ways of making progress on the site.

One is through an independent cinema operator, Mr Pat Scott of S & B Cinemas Ltd in Somerset taking over the site, the other is to start an appeal and buy the Theatre Royal themselves.

Mr Sutton said: "The group wants a cinema for the community – but not only that, if Barry is to attract tourists it needs a cinema."

The Vale Council offered no comment.

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Van driver's rant at horse riders in a Vale lane

I HAVE been riding horses on the roads around Dinas Powys for 20 years and the vast majority of drivers are considerate, responsible and courteous, particularly those who drive larger vehicles and are aware that horses may be scared by them.

I would like to thank those drivers and let them know their consideration is always appreciated.

However, my recent encounter with the driver of a transit van has forced me to write this letter.

May I reassure the driver that despite the assumption he made during his rant towards me, that my horse is fully insured and has (along with cyclists and pedestrians) every right to be on the roads.

Moreover, should he choose to vent his anger at perfectly law-abiding people in future, maybe he would be best advised not to do it from a van with his company's name on the side.

I certainly will not be recommending his company to anybody I know and will be writing to his managers.

My 'crime' to deserve this rant was to ask him politely, with the correct hand signals as designated by the highway code, to slow down as he approached a friend and me on a particularly narrow section of the lanes in St Andrews Major at considerable speed.

Both riders and horses were wearing high visibility clothing – the horses are very well behaved in traffic and, luckily, they did not react.

However, horses are unpredictable and others may not have been so tolerant.

He was clearly in a hurry as the five seconds that slowing down for us would have added to his journey was obviously too much.

Why then did he stop for at least a minute to hurl abuse at me and question my right to be on the road?

I can only hope, for his customers' sake, that his attitude towards his work is not the same as he displays towards fellow road users.

Ann Miller,
Dinas Powys

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

Dogs v horses: humans can be disgusting, too!

IT'S not often that I laugh out loud at letters published in newspapers, but last week there were two letters (in The GEM) that gave me more than just a good chuckle.

I have been following the ongoing debate concerning dog fouling and horse manure, but it has now got to the point of being totally ridiculous.

I'm not sure what planet letter writer Leanne Sokolski is living on, but I can only assume it's one where thousands of people don't use horse manure as a fertiliser for their crops.

Perhaps she should warn all the people on earth the dangers of using manure to fertilise their flowers and vegetables. Given that we've been using it for hundreds of years for this purpose, as well as building material for houses, I'm surprised people aren't dropping like flies...

You would think, in a logical world, the people who find horse manure so offensive would be pleased to see the implementation of more bridle paths, as it would mean manure-free paths and roads.

As for the views of Irene Jones, well, words fail me.

Personally, I would never share a lolly with my dog, but is that reason to ban all dog owners from public places?

There are plenty of things that humans do in public that I find disgusting.

Should we ban these people from public places, too?

It is, once again, a case of the anti-dog and anti-horse brigade trying to impose small-minded, ill-informed views on the general public, and causing nothing but grievance for the responsible owners.

Sian Lewis,
Dinas Powys

Airborne Forces in World War 2

AS part of the forthcoming events in and around the Pier Head Building in Cardiff on National Armed Forces Day, on Saturday, June 26, I am looking to put on a display of photographs and artefacts of local men who served with the Airborne Forces in World War Two.

If veterans or relatives across the Vale of Glamorgan have any information and photographs that they would like to see displayed as part of my tribute to these men, please contact me on: ninian27@*btinternet.com* or telephone 07708 255295.

Dr Jonathan Hicks,
Barry

'If only we had joined the Euro!'

LETTER writer Eluned Parrott (The GEM, March 4) observes that "large single investments from overseas businesses ... don't necessarily bring sustainable long-term employment".

In my opinion, they would have done if Britain had joined the Euro in 2002 – as the Liberal Democrats urged at the time.

However, the continuing negative attitude of the Conservative Party toward continental Europe is enough to deter any sustainable overseas investments in the UK.

A Conservative government would bring a new recession to Wales.

There is a solution to the weak economy in this country, and that is to elect Vince Cable as Chancellor of the Exchequer!

Roger Everest,
Pontyclun

'Let's all be tolerant of one another...'

IN response to Ms Sololski's remark in The GEM on March 4, I would just like to say, as an owner of three dogs and one horse, yes I am privileged to own my animals.

My horse is insured (cost is more than my car and includes third party liability) vaccinated and routinely wormed; all this costs money.

I am privileged, but to fund all this, I do not go on holiday, drink or smoke. I work full time in a quite demanding job; the dogs are walked twice daily and anything they deposit is picked up.

Horse manure has always been in demand for gardens and allotments. In years gone by, folk would have followed the horse and cart for the manure the horse deposited (very good for rhubarb, I'm told!).

Like V Pritchard, I agree there are very few places to ride horses, and dogs have as much right to be on the beach during the open season. So why can't we all not get along?

There will always be irresponsible owners of dogs and horses – nothing and no-one will ever change that.

If they could change, there would be far fewer cases of animal cruelty.

So please, let's learn to be more tolerant of each other – live and let live.

Carol Watts,
Barry

More bridleways are the answer

THERE are over 400 horses in the Dinas/Wenvoe area alone, and hundreds more in the rest of the Vale.

Their owners make a significant contribution to the local economy!

If we, which includes many children, had more bridleways (none of which is exclusive), we wouldn't have to ride elsewhere and offend the anti-horse brigade.

Mrs V Pritchard,
Dinas Powys

WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS?
Email: ggem@internet-today.co.uk

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MARCH 18)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
11 Thur	03.20	7.5	15.58	7.6
12 Fri	04.18	8.1	16.49	8.2
13 Sat	04.59	8.6	17.26	8.7
14 Sun	05.36	9.0	18.02	8.9
15 Mon	06.16	9.3	18.31	9.3
16 Tues	06.47	9.5	19.03	9.4
17 Wed	07.17	9.6	19.33	9.5
18 Thur	07.48	9.7	20.12	9.5

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide tablespecific to their location.

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National Drugs Helpline **0800 776600**
DASH **01656 650686**
SSAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families **01656 785435**
RAF Association Welfare Officer 01495 249522/01446 740522
SAMARITANS (emotional support) **01656 662333**
VALE WOMEN'S AID 01446 744755
MENTAL DISTRESS
(Mental Health Matters) **01656 767045**
Mental Health Helpline:
Freephone **0800 132 737**
MIND in the Vale of Glamorgan
01446 730792 or www.mindinthevale.org.uk
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RSPCA 0300 123 0744. MIND 01446 746191.
AIDS helplines 0800 567123.
Child abuse – NSPCC 0808 800 5000.
Alcoholics Anonymous – (24 hours) 0845 7697555.
Drug Aid (24 hours) 02920 881000.
Inroads Drugs Project – 42, Holton Road, Barry. 01446 404040.
Vale Victim & Witness Support - Barry Magistrates Court, Thompson Street, Barry CF63 4SX. 01446 730704.

MP & AM's SURGERY TIMES

To make a surgery appointment with John Smith MP, contact the constituency office (01446) 743769. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

To make a surgery appointment with Jane Hutt AM, contact the constituency office (01446) 740981. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

CITIZENS' ADVICE

At 119 Broad Street, Barry. Drop in Mon-Fri (not Weds) 9.30am - 4.30am (Wed 11am-6pm); at Llantwit Major Youth Centre, Station Road 9.30am - 11.30am Mon and Fri. Telephone advice 0845 120 3756. *Further information www.adviceguide.org.uk*

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police - Gladstone Road, Barry; for normal service 01446 734451; in emergency 999. Fire - South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Pontyclun 01443 232000; in emergency 999. Coastguard - Regional Office, Swansea 01792 366534; in emergency 999.
Gas - Gas emergency number 0800 111999.
Electricity - Emergency 0800 0520400; Water - Emergency 0800 052 0130; supply 0800 0520130.
Trading Standards Consumer Advice Centre - Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry; hours of opening for telephone enquiries - Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-5pm; Friday 8.30am-4.30pm on 01446 700111. For personal visits, Monday to Thursday 9am-4.30pm. Friday 9am-4pm. Recycling Hotline, 01446 700111.
To report a fly tipping incident - 01446 700111.

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Councillors to get a four per cent rise

VALE councillors are to receive a four per cent pay rise this year – a rise that will be automatic after a local government panel made its annual recommendations.

The annual exercise involves the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, which has set a new level of allowances for councillors in Wales.

The rise in allowances recommended by the panel will be accepted because the Vale Council decided some time ago to accept its decisions.

A Vale Council spokesman explained: "In previous consideration of a report by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, the council decided to adhere to their determinations in relation to members' allowances and expenses, in order to avoid the position where members were deciding their own allowances."

The remuneration panel is planning to raise councillors' basic allowance by more than £500 – from £13,356 to £13,868 – a rise of 3.98 per cent.

There are also going to be changes to the special allowances for posts such as Leader and cabinet members.

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

The Leader, Coun Gordon Kemp, will see his allowance rise to £38,139. That will be added to his basic salary of £13,868.

The deputy leader's allowance will be £22,537, and cabinet members will receive £17,336 .

Those councillors who chair scrutiny committees, and also the chairpersons of the development control, licensing, and audit committees will receive £9,708.

The leader of the largest opposition group will also receive £9,708

Finally, the leaders of other political groups will get £4,161 – provided their groups constitute no less than 10 per cent of the council membership – meaning that a group will need six members.

PENSION DECISION

The panel's also pronounces on pensions, and this has led to an interesting situation in neighbouring Bridgend, where Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) is one of only two Welsh councils not to have joined the Local Government Pension Scheme.

The panel says that councillors aged under 75 should be eligible to join the scheme, and that their required contribution rate – should they decide to do so – is currently six per cent of salary.

However, the employer's contribution would be more than three times that, at 21 per cent.

Although the leaders of the main political groupings in Bridgend have said that they will not join the scheme, the council is still likely to vote to sign up – with the final choice being left to each councillor.

Bridgend residents have been told that the likely take up rate is 30 per cent, meaning that the council will have to find an extra £60,000.

However, if the Vale Council is a guide line, that figure may be an under-estimate.

A Vale Council spokesman explained: "The decision to allow Vale of Glamorgan councillors to join the Local Government Pension Scheme was made by the council on December 7, 2005, in line with the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

"Currently 47 per cent of the Vale's councillors are in the scheme."

Vandals 'strip' parked vehicles

POLICE are hunting vandals who daubed paint stripper on cars parked in a Barry street.

Seven vehicles were damaged overnight between Sunday, February 28 and Monday, March 1, and police are appealing for help to trace the culprits.

Barry Neighbourhood Police Constable Andy Newman said: "Patrols have been stepped up in the area and if anyone sees someone behaving in an unusual or suspicious manner, they should contact the police immediately."

Call PC Newman at Barry police station on 101, or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 333 111.

Haiti cash

ST Barucs Church, Barry Island, raised £4,279 for the Haiti earthquake Appeal.

This includes collections from the following: Barry Island School (£741.13); Romilly School (£1,000);All Saints School (£552.59); Senedd cake sale by Jane Hutt and Abi Phillips (£374.03); neon torch-light sponsored walk, bucket collections and donations (£1,612.15).

Campaigners' joy as Bryneithin care home stays open

(Continued from page 1)

"I know how stressful this has been for the Bryneithin residents and their relatives.

"They will now be assured that their loved ones will not be moved from the home they have lived in with the support of their families and the long-serving staff.

"I hope the council will consider using Bryneithin for temporary and respite residents, to meet the widespread need for these services in the Vale while new services are developed."

The residents have been told that Bryneithin will be kept open in line with Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales standards.

Plaid Cymru candidate for the Vale, Dr Ian Johnson, welcomed the news, but said he was disappointed when it was made clear at a scrutiny meeting on Monday evening that the council would continue with plans to close the facility in the long run.

He said: "That Bryneithin will stay open for as long as the current residents are living there is fantastic news for the residents and their families, and I must congratulate the Keep Bryneithin Group for their persistence and hard work on this issue.

"However, it seems that the Tory-run Vale Council want to cut off their nose to spite their face.

"If Bryneithin has to be maintained in order to provide the necessary standard of support for those living there, then it makes sense for the home to continue to take in new residents and day visitors.

"To do otherwise, would not provide value for money for us as taxpayers.

"I am very disappointed that the Vale Council has taken such a narrow view of this situation and are still intending to close the home – when they should instead be looking at other alternatives for maintaining and providing care at Bryneithin.

"With people living longer, there is likely to be an increase in the number of people needing this type of care in future and it is crucial that a well-funded specialist unit of this type is kept open in the Vale."

Philip Evans, the director of social services for the council, said: "*Upon legal advice regarding a potential challenge to the council on a contractual issue, the council has confirmed that Bryneithin Residential Care Home will remain open for the current permanent residents, should they wish to remain.*

"Ty Dyfan (in Barry) will continue to be an option for the current residents and will remain available to them, unless it is fully occupied or unable to meet their needs.

"However, the council will close Bryneithin to, and not admit, any new residents, including temporary or respite."

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HAPPY 1ST ANNIVERSARY! CELEBRATING OUR FIRST YEAR!

ABOVE: FocusBarry members were keen to hear about the new Waterfront proposals.

Local group focuses on Waterfront plans

FOCUSBARRY, the community group aiming to promote the needs and aspirations of Barry people, has discussed the latest proposals for the £150m redevelopment of the docks area with representatives of the Waterfront Consortium at the YMCA Hub.

Consortium executive Richard Keogh gave a detailed presentation of the revised plans for the district centre at the heart of the Barry Waterfront proposals. In addition to providing nearly 2,000 new homes, commercial, retail and leisure facilities, the scheme now features a larger café quarter, a waterside square and a purpose-built community facility.

In a lively question-and–answer session, Mr Keogh replied to concerns from FocusBARRY members on topics ranging from community and leisure facilities for families and young people, to road links and job opportunities.

FocusBARRY member Bernard Brown said: "There is no doubt that the Waterfront needs redevelopment and there's a great opportunity to bring new life and vibrancy to the town.

"However, we must ensure that the scheme meets the needs of local families and young people, as well as attracting new investment, encouraging local business, jobs and visitors. Road links and transport are a vital component of success."

His views were echoed by Dianne Hooper, who said: "In recent years, we've lost the Lido, we've lost our last cinema and Bindles ballroom.

"The Waterfront scheme must help re-invigorate community spirit."

Julia Walsh added: "The roads in and out of town are already at rush-hour gridlock, and with nearly 2,000 new homes being built, it will get worse. The Vale Council must address this problem – the developers have a duty to take account of this element."

Anyone wishing to support or join the group, can contact FocusBARRY at 1 Lewis Street, Barry, CF62 6JW, or email the group at FocusBARRY@live.co.uk or leave a message on 01446 721019.

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Vale band hits right notes in music contest

BARRY-BASED band Shooting the Moon have won their way through to the regional finals of the UK's largest original music competition, Live and Unsigned – making them the only Vale band left in the competition.

The three-piece group beat off stiff competition from hundreds of other acts to win a prestigious place in the south-west regional finals, to be held at Cheltenham in March.

They were given just two minutes to impress a panel of industry judges, and their debut single 'Abduction' hit all the right notes.

The band's guitarist, Mark Creese, explained: "We took a bit of a chance really. Out of all our songs, 'Abduction' has the most unusual subject matter and doesn't really sound like your average indie song.

"We wanted to stand out from all the other acts, and hoped the judges would appreciate something different. Obviously they did, because we were one of only a handful of acts to get through at the south-west auditions."

Live and Unsigned is the biggest competition in the UK for unsigned bands and artists and has attracted more than 30,000 entries over the past three years. Artists battle through auditions to reach regional finals, with the hope of getting through to the grand final at the 02 Arena in London.

Awaiting the lucky winners is a top prize of a recording and management contract, courtesy of Future Music, with an investment of £30,000 to release a single.

The band may have sailed through the first round, but the next round poses a much bigger challenge. Not only will they have to play two tracks at the regional finals, which have to consist of a cover as well as an original song, they'll be doing so in front of a judging panel and a large live audience.

Although well-versed in performing in front of audiences, having played gigs at Cardiff venues like Ten Feet Tall, the Toucan Club and O'Neill's, as well as taking the prime slot at this year's Christmas lights show in Barry and supporting The Automatic at the Waterfront Festival last August, the prospect of Live and Unsigned provides their biggest challenge.

James Watkins, vocalist and keyboardist, said: "We love playing live and this competition will bring us our biggest and most diverse audience to date. It's nerve-wracking as there's an expectation on us now and we really want to progress in the competition."

Brave Vale mother's cancer battle inspires the community spirit!

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

WHEN a St Athan woman had to undergo a fierce course of chemotherapy and learned she was going to lose her hair, it set off a chain of events that proved that in the darkest moments the good can still shine through.

For Julie Parks (47) who won a battle with breast cancer four and a half years ago, it seemed a cruel twist when she was diagnosed with the disease a second time, but the Parks family are made of stern stuff.

Julie explained: "Due to the course of chemotherapy, I am going to lose my hair, and my husband Andy, who knew that it would be hard for me, decided to support me.

"He said: 'If you're losing your hair, then I am too!' and shaved his head.

"He is going to remain bald until the end of my treatment in May."

Not only that, Julie's 82-year-old mother Gerda and Andy, keen to do something to support those going through a similar experience to Julie, have combined to raise more than £1,100 for Macmillan Cancer Care.

ABOVE: Gerda Teague, a shaved Andy Parks and Julie Parks have proved that life's trials can be turned round and become a force for good.

"My mother Gerda canvassed the estate where we live, which includes Rectory Drive, Tathan Crescent, St Michael's Close and Roberts Close, to raise funds.

"Steve Jenkins, the staff and customers at Londis, along with Chapel Surgery staff and patients in the village also helped, and Gerda raised more than £550. That's not bad for a nearly 83-year-old!

"Andy also set up a website and the donations from that have meant that the original target has been well and truly exceeded.

"I'd like to thank the local community for being so supportive."

Julie's son Chris, and his girlfriend Kate, both 22, plan to take part in the Cardiff half marathon on behalf of Macmillan this summer, and Chris said: "The family hoped to get about £300 – we never expected to get to more than £1,100!"

Julie found out that the breast cancer had returned during an annual check up. Fortunately, because the diagnosis was quick the cancer has been contained, and Julie's treatment at Velindre and the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend is going according to plan.

Julie, who is St Athan born and bred, talks philosophically of the experience: "I think of the cancer returning being rather like a naughty child who you've put to bed, but who gets up again and you have to tell them to go back to bed."

The current total raised so far is £1,123.60.

If anyone wishes to support the Parks' family they can make a donation a t www.justgiving.com/andy-parks.

Rhoose surgery

COUNCILLORS Jeff James and Gordon Kemp will hold an advice surgery on Saturday, March 13 at 10am-12noon in Rhoose Community Hall, Stewart Road, Rhoose.

For further information, telephone 01446 710690.

CADOXTON MAN FLEES HOUSE AFTER SEWAGE INVADES HIS PROPERTY

A CADOXTON man says his life has been a nightmare since raw sewage seeped into his property from a nearby drain ,accompanied by an overpowering, foul smell.

Mr Dave Jones, who lives in Quarella Street, said: "The smell has been so bad my partner and I have even had to go and live with friends for a week!"

The offending drain is located on a private hard-standing area behind houses on Pontypridd Street, which is on the hill above Quarella Street.

Mr Graham Gill and Mr Huw Gibbs, neighbours in Pontypridd Street, told The GEM how they had brought in a private company to try to unblock the drain, which had been blocked and was overflowing, but the problem had persisted.

Mr Jones said: "The Vale Council stepped in and used a high pressure jet, which blew it back up so that months of sewage ran down into the alley and into my property. It came into the shed and garden, and I'm wondering whether it has even seeped into the walls.

"For the first week after this happened, Wendy and I had to move in with friends because we couldn't stand the smell. We're back home now, but whenever we get back home, we're forced to endure the smell."

Mr Jones, a production manager in the steel industry, who performs with local band Midweek Crisis over the weekends, said he was now being "given the runaround" by the Vale Council and Welsh Water, who both claim the other party is responsible for resolving the problem.

Mr Jones said he believes the council should step back in because they used the jet.

He added that a land survey and drain check are required to ensure the blockage hasn't simply been moved further down an ageing drainage network.

Miles Punter, the head of Vale visible services, said: "The council received a report on February 12 of a drainage problem from the owner of a property in the area. Initial investigations showed that a private sewer, serving several properties, was blocked.

" As the responsibility for the repair and maintenance of private sewers lies with the owners/occupiers of the properties, whose drains discharge into the private sewer, a statutory notice was served on the relevant parties to unblock the sewer.

"It is understood that an unsuccessful attempt to unblock the private sewer was made prior to the council serving notice. As the residents had not cleared the blockage on expiry of the notice, works in default were carried out by the council and a contractor was employed to clear the blockage.

"This was unsuccessful and further investigations were carried out to identify the route of the private drainage system and the location of the blockage. It was hampered by the lack of manholes on the system and the large amount of fly tipping deposited in the lane to the rear of Quarella Street."

Mr Punter went on: "As foul water was seeping out of the rear garden of a property downhill of the problem, the owners of the property were updated on investigations being undertaken to resolve the problem.

"A report was later received on March 1, regarding smells within the property. Arrangements were made for council officers to investigate and to advise the owners/occupiers accordingly.

"Following this investigation, council officers were of the opinion that the problem was in the public sewerage system and the matter was reported on March 3 to Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, who own and maintain public sewers.

"After liaison with Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, a problem was located in the public sewer on March 5. Council officers are awaiting feedback on the cause of the blockage, but confirm that the private sewer is now running clear."

ABOVE:
Mr Graham Gill and Mr Dave Jones inspect the drain which produced a flow of sewage onto Mr Jones' premises.

He added: "The council considers that it has acted in accordance with its powers in investigating and trying to resolve a problem on a private drainage system and that it had tried to ensure that Dwr Cymru Welsh Water was involved at the appropriate time to investigate the adjacent public sewer.

"It regrets that Mr Jones was inconvenienced by the investigation works to identify the problem and find a solution."

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Vale dancers get taste of competition in Bridgend

THE Bridgend Recreation Centre was the venue for the Youth Cymru SuperDance Competition.

Youth dance groups from across south Wales came to compete for a chance to compete at the national final in March.

Rebound Dance Group from Llantwit Youth Centre competed in the junior and intermediate divisions with solos and team dance pieces.

Mia Pegrum (aged 12) performed first with her solo in the junior section, then later as part of 'TRANS-PERFORMERS' with team mates Lucy Grahame (13), Aimee Wilson (13), Menna George (12) and Jenny Massingham (12).

They all performed very well and with confidence for a first competition.

RIGHT: Waiting for their cue.

The intermediate section was represented by Kiera Stanton (13) in the solo division where she came runner-up.

The team 'FORMULA' had dancers Erin Allison (14), Kiera Stanton (13), Morgan Turnball (13) and Sophie George (13) perform as mad scientists.

The judges enjoyed this dance piece, awarding them third place. These four dancers will now compete against dancers from across Wales in Llandrindod Wells on March 6.

Emma Mallam – dance co-ordinator for Motion Control, said: "I would like to congratulate all the dancers for their wonderful performances at their first dance competition, they are all stars!

"I would like to say 'good luck' to them at the national finals, and thanks go to dance leader Liberty Jones for her creativity and hard work with Rebound Dance Group since starting teaching at the end of last year.

Recognition must also be given to the staff of Llantwit Youth Centre, who came and supported the dancers at the competition."

Rebound Dance is part of the Motion Control Dance Programme, which is a partnership initiative between Vibe Experience and the Vale of Glamorgan Youth Service, which provides dance opportunities for young people in the Vale.

For more information, call 01446 733622 or email emma@vibeexperience.com.

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NEWS FROM THE BARRY MEN'S FORUM

Memories of London tube train disaster

THE speaker at the last meeting was Ian Birchenough, a former member of the City of London police force and a current member of the forum.

He took members back in time by vividly reminding them of the horrific train crash that took place 35 years ago at Moorgate tube station, when an underground train due to terminate there ran at headlong speed straight into the buffers deep underground.

He reminded members that the City of London has its own police force in the 'square mile' and the population of this area is only about 3,000 at night, but rises sharply to some two and a half million by day. The City police force at the time of the incident was about 900 strong.

The platforms at Moorgate were at three different levels – with the bottom level, where the crash occurred, being the narrowest, with only a five foot gap between carriage roofs and the tunnel top, in normal conditions.

On the day of the crash, the train approaching the termination buffers, instead of slowing down, was seen to accelerate to about 45 miles per hour before smashing into the end buffers with tremendous force.

The first 15 feet of the first carriage was compacted to practically nothing and an unknown number of passengers, together with the driver, were killed instantly.

Three train carriages deep underground were rammed into a space of 60 feet.

The rescuers in the fire service were faced with an horrendous challenge, in steadily mounting heat and lack of ventilation, to rescue those still living in the wreckage and extract the bodies of the dead.

Surgeons from nearby hospitals performed emergency operations and amputations on the station platform.

For several days Ian, was assigned to the emergency morgue set up nearby and was part of the team that had the grim task of trying to identify the dead crash victims brought in, before coroner`s court action could be taken.

Looking back, Mr Birchenough told the forum, that, in a way, it was fortunate that this tragedy happened on a Friday allowing the rescuers more time to operate over the more quiet week-end. It took from the Friday to the following Wednesday for the driver's body to be reached at the front of the train.

To this day, the cause of the crash remains a mystery and a verdict of 'accidental death' was recorded following the inquest.

Meetings are held every Thursday at 10.30am and new members are welcome.

For further information please telephone 029 2059 4881.

Mac Tanner

Barry Male Voice Choir hands cheque to charity

Handing over the cheque.

A BUSY festive period by the Barry Male Voice Choir included two local charity concerts.

The choir, together with the Barry Island Junior School Choir, provided a memorable evening of seasonal music at Vale Mayor Coun Emlyn Williams' charity concert at Art Central Barry.

The choir's Christmas carol concert featuring the RAF Voluntary Band held at All Saints Church, was held in aid of the Alzheimer's Society and raised £850.

The photograph, above, shows the presentation of a cheque for £850 by Don Surridge, chairman of the Barry Male Voice Choir to Alzheimer Society representatives Helen Lloyd and Pamela Stanley.

During the rebuilding of Holy Trinity Church Hall, Monday and Thursday practices are now held in Holy Trinity Church, Trinity Street, Barry from 7.30pm-9.30pm. Visitors and new members welcome.

GJ

PENARTH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWS UPDATE

Photographic tour around scenic Britain

RECENTLY, the Penarth Horticultural Society held its second meeting of the year.

Without having to stir from our seats we were transported on a journey around Britain with professional photographer Nick Jenkins.

Throughout his talk, he shared tips on how to obtain the best photographs.

His slides illustrated the beauty of our countryside in all its guises. We started with the majesty of Welsh landscapes; snow-capped mountains, lonely heather-covered moors and deep, green valleys.

Vast skies were reflected in the lakes of Scotland and mists swirled around forest and fields. Regimented dry stone walls carved their way through the Yorkshire Dales and bluebells rested in the woods around Crickhowell.

There were so many scenes to enjoy and perhaps to evoke memories of visits to these areas in days gone by.

STELLA WELLS

Languages

Year-9 pupils at Bryn Hafren were treated to special languages lessons when French and Spanish Erasmus students came to speak about their home town and region and highlighted the importance of being able to speak another foreign language.

Kiddie Winkling out the mini beasts and critters!

ABOVE: Looking for little critters!

KIDDIEWINKLES Playgroup of Crossway Methodist Church Hall, Court Road, Barry took on I CAN's Chatterbox Challenge with a 'Sponsored Toddle In The Park' on February 24.

The group used magnifying glasses to search under bushes, in the long grass, and around trees for minibeasts! They found snails, slugs, woodlice, worms, spiders and ants.

Back at playgroup, they drew the minibeasts they had seen, and imitated their movements.

The were awarded a certificate and have so far raised about £70 (with sponsors still coming in daily) for I CAN.

Regeneration status for Barry is a boost for Vale

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by ***Jane Hutt AM***
(Minister for Business and Budget)

IT was a brilliant St David's Day boost for the people of Barry to hear the news that the town is to be officially designated by the Welsh Assembly Government as a Strategic Regeneration Area.

After the launch of the Pride in Barry petition three years ago, with successive meetings held in Cardiff Bay and Barry, as well as discussions held with the Vale of Glamorgan Council about needs and priorities, the largest town in Wales, Barry, got what it deserves – a dedicated focus on its economic and social needs through regeneration.

This will be good for Barry and good for the whole of the county, linking up to the St Athan developments to the west and Penarth renewal investment in the east.

The Minister, Jocelyn Davies AM, made a statement to the Assembly about the prospects for Barry with the announcement of SRA status. She stated that the Action Plan that will be developed will focus on three key themes "in order to build and sustain vibrant communities, by breaking the cycle of deprivation, addressing the skills supply and tackling economic inactivity."

We know what that will mean for Barry as we move out of recession, boosting the educational and skills opportunities for our young people in school and college, but also through the apprenticeship schemes supported by government and backed by employers in our Barry and Vale business and industries.

The opportunities for post-16 education and training are lifted by this announcement and will link to the developing prospects for our schools and Barry College.

It is also vital for those who have lost out from the economic downturn and need the benefit of re- training through our React programme and to look for new business opportunities to open doors for new prospects.

The Action Plan will also help to integrate public and private sector developments in housing, linked to energy efficiency and for the refurbishment of older housing in Barry as the housing needs of our young people and families are recognised.

We know that a major challenge will be to link up all parts of the town's shopping and residential areas, the Waterfront, and Barry Island, with the heart of Barry in Kings Square.

The Library and Arts Central provide 21st century facilities which are the best in Wales, with our Barry central library as the hub of leisure, educational, creative and social activity.

This must emanate throughout Barry with that sense of pride and confidence we know will lift the economy, and lift the aspirations of our young people who are receiving the best education in Wales in our Vale schools.

The regeneration of Barry will also enhance the tourist potential as we revive the town with new leisure and recreational activities. Of course, that parting shot of sunny Whitmore Bay in the last episode of 'Gavin and Stacey' watched by millions at Christmas is long lasting!

The crowds will be back as the sun breaks through the wintry months and there are encouraging prospects for the opening up of Barry Island station and the tourist track.

The Vale of Glamorgan has been marketed as 'the Garden of Cardiff' and will feature strongly in the promotions during British Tourism Week which take place from March 15-21 and there will be a major event at Cardiff Airport on March 19 as part of the promotional events. At the event there will be local tourism businesses and a focus on skills and tourism. We should be the tourism centre for Wales in the Vale and Barry can and will play its part.

There is a growing sense of pride and well-being in Barry which is good for our health and well-being, as well as our economy. Also on St David's Day, I went to the launch of the first published works of our most famous composer, Grace Williams, who drew her inspiration from living in Barry.

The many important figures recognised in the recent Pride in Barry Blue Plaque ceremony is a testament to our heritage.

At the Science Week taster workshops at the Dow Corning Nature Centre, pupils from High Street School, Barry were demonstrating their enthusiasm for learning about science as will all the schools taking part this week.

Barry Comprehensive School is celebrating their latest Assembly grant award for a safer route to school scheme.

On Friday this week, I am holding my annual spring Breakfast at Barry College on the theme of 'Celebrating Youth in the Vale of Glamorgan' with the Children's Commissioner, Keith Towler, as our keynote speaker.

I know that will be a memorable occasion with the Vale Youth Forum and School Council representatives from across the Vale enjoying the occasion and the breakfast cooked by Barry College students!

In her statement, the Minister said: "Focusing our regeneration activity on centres that will have the biggest impact on the area, will allow us to deliver the best value for the Welsh pound."

This is what Barry will deliver as a strategic regeneration area in Wales!

VALE AMBULANCE RESPONSE TIMES ARE 'VERY ALARMING'

– says a regional AM

FIGURES showing that the Vale continues to have below average ambulance response times, are "alarming" says Andrew RT Davies, Conservative AM for south Wales central.

"The latest figures, revealed this week, show that 54.4 per cent of ambulances arrived at the scene of an emergency within the target time of eight minutes, below the Welsh average of 58.5 per cent and well below the Assembly Government's target of 65 per cent," he pointed out.

"These figures make for very alarming reading for Vale residents. I am concerned that barely half of ambulances in the Vale are responding to 999 distress calls within eight minutes.

"The Vale continues to perform less well than the Welsh average and response times are worse than neighbouring regions. The Assembly Government's target of 65 per cent is below the target of 70 per cent, which is set for England by the Department for Health.

"I will be seeking to raise this matter with the Health Minister at the earliest opportunity to learn why response times in the Vale are getting worse," he promised.

Andrew RT Davies.

Rugby veterans award a 'trophy' to Vale AM!

BARRY rugby veterans handed the Vale AM Jane Hutt her very own trophy, a pottery mug – when they went 'on tour' to the Senedd recently.

Afterwards, she reported: "It was great to meet the Barry RFC veterans team and to congratulate them on their excellent club, which I am proud to support.

"I was very honoured to receive a lovely pottery mug, which will take pride of place at my Assembly office in Cardiff Bay!"

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School colleagues plan charity trek in China

ABOVE: Jane Clarke and Davina Morgan

TWO intrepid travellers are off to China in October, to raise funds for Save the Children.

Jane Clarke from Barry and Davina Morgan from Penarth are colleagues at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg in Barry.

It was through their work together that they came up with the bright idea of going on an adventure, and supporting a cause dear to both their hearts.

With five children between them, Jane and Davina were thrilled to be accepted for the charity trek, which has attracted a 35-strong group from across the UK.

They hope the "trip of a lifetime will make a lifetime of difference to lots of children".

"We're totally self-funded," says mother of three Jane, "so every penny will go to Save the Children, who do amazing work in places like Haiti, and are still working with communities in Thailand five years after the Tsunami."

One of their fundraising projects is a concert in September when Jane, a keen amateur musician, will be singing the *Faure Requiem* in a choir formed especially for the occasion.

Singers from across the Vale will be joined by a professional orchestra from the Welsh College of Music and Drama on Sunday, September 5 to perform one of the most popular works in the choral repertoire.

If you would like to join Vale Voices, come along to the first rehearsal on Sunday, March 21 at 4pm in Parkside Christian Centre, St Bride's Way, Barry (on the edge of Pencoedtre Park).

More details on 01446 744914, or dot.connell@virgin.net

If you want to support to Davina and Jane's fundraising efforts, log on to www.justgiving.com/Davina-Morgan or www.justgiving.com/janeclarke5

DC

Day nursery re-opens

A LOCAL couple has spent six months buying and renovating a day nursery that closed in unexplained circumstances 12 months ago.

It was in February 2009 that parents who used The Children's Day Nursery in George Street on Bridgend Industrial Estate, arrived one Monday to find it closed.

It had been open for nine years, and was one of the first day nurseries to open on an industrial estate.

That was the way things stayed until Simon and Emma Matthews bought the building six months ago, and those six months of hard work modernising the building came to fruition when the couple re-opened the nursery on March 1.

Simon told The GEM: "The response has been very encouraging. There is still a strong demand for a service such as ours, which is close to people's place of work."

The closure has given the new management team the chance to invest in the latest technology, and Simon and Emma point to the intensive CCTV monitoring of each room in the building as a major safety feature.

What's more, anyone nominated by parents to collect a child will have to pass a 'fingerprint test'.

Simon believes that he and Emma are the first day nursery to use this technology, which stores the prints of parents, family and friends – and flags up anyone unauthorised.

Simon added: "That fingerprint system is backed up by a password protection scheme as well!"

For details on The Children's Day Nursery, visit www.thechildrensdaynursery.co.uk

Taste of Welsh culture!

MEMBERS of the Crossway Open Door Community Group recently enjoyed Welsh cakes and music by Welsh choirs.

Anyone wishing to join for a chat and a cuppa, and a variety of themes, should go along to Crossway Church Hall on Wednesdays, between 2pm-3.30pm, where they will be made welcome.

The Children's Day Nursery

Ages 6 weeks - 5 years

Simon and Emma Matthews having run a number of successful after school clubs, have now expanded into this new business venture. They have appointed manageress Danielle Jones who has relocated from Southampton bringing lots of fresh ideas and over ten years experience.

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Short-break foster mum says:

'Barnardo's is brilliant at matching children to the right family'

WHEN a Barry couple were warned by doctors that their youngest child could be born deaf or disabled after mum Francesca caught chicken pox in the early stages of her pregnancy, little did they know it would lead to them looking after more children!

ABOVE: Lively Lewis (centre) loves spending time with Maria, Francesca, Anthony and Joshua.

Anthony and Francesca Price had an anxious six-month wait before Maria was born prematurely, but in a perfectly healthy condition.

Yet, it was this experience that prompted the couple with a new-born baby and an older child Joshua to consider, taking on the challenge of becoming short-break foster carers for children with additional needs.

Francesca explained: "It was the longest six months of our lives but we felt so blessed to have had two healthy children that we wanted to give something back.

"Not long after Maria was born I saw a Barnardo's advert looking for short-break carers, and I spoke to my husband Anthony about it. He used to work for Scope and worked with adults with learning difficulties and he said yes straightaway.

"It took about a year to do the preparation course, and then we were linked to a lovely boy with Down's Syndrome.

"Joshua was three years old at the time and Maria was one and they both adored him, but he is a teenager now and he has moved on to another link family, who have children closer to his age."

But the couple have continued to support Barnardo's

Francesca said: "For the past two years we have been linked to Lewis, who is turning eight and is closer in age to Joshu (also eight) and Maria who is six. He comes to stay with us overnight about every third weekend, and we are hoping to make that into weekend visits where he stays for two nights.

"Lewis is a happy, little chappy and fits in as part of the family. When he comes to stay, we do the usual things we like to do with our own children.

"For example, this week we are going to the cinema and then we might go for a walk in the park. Lewis also loves playing baking, arts and crafts – or going out on the scooter – all the things children enjoy doing.

"I know it sounds selfish, but we have gained a lot from the project. It is really nice to feel that you are helping, but really the child just fits in with your lifestyle so it doesn't really demand any extra time or effort.

"Barnardo's is brilliant in making sure they match a child to a family perfectly.

"Our children have benefited from the Barnardo's family link project, too. Having grown up around children with additional needs, it has given them a different perspective, so they see beyond the disability."

Francesca added: "I think anyone who is considering becoming a short-break carer should definitely go for it. We do build up a good relationship with a link child's parents, so they know they can rely on and trust us. That's important."

• *If you would like to learn more about becoming a link carer for a disabled child, call Barnardo's Cymru Community Links project on 029 2057 1910.*

Pupil mentoring pilot project takes off in Vale

A 10-WEEK mentoring project is being piloted in six schools across the Vale by Community Focused Schools.

Supported by the Vale Council through the Wellbeing Activity Grant Scheme, seven trained volunteers will each work with a pupil, or a small group of pupils, to help motivate them in the classroom.

"The volunteers are all over the age of 50, have been trained and CRB checked and come from various areas of the Vale.

"The primary schools that are involved in this pilot are Cogan Primary, Holton Primary, High Street Primary, Palmerston Primary, Jenner Park Primary and Eagleswell Primary," spokeswoman Lizz Shaw explained.

Mentors work alongside their pupil/small group in the classroom, giving help and support to them in all areas of the school curriculum.

Jane Weldon, a volunteer mentor based at Holton Primary School, said: "I decided to become involved in the mentoring project because I wanted to try and give a child I was involved with the tools to enable them to deal with the current problems they were having.

"Hopefully, they will become more confident in the school environment prior to moving into high school education."

Ann Whitfield, who volunteers at Cogan Primary School, said: "The intergenerational mentoring experience is rewarding, fulfilling and thoroughly enjoyable. The staff and pupils at the school are welcoming and appreciative. I am learning a lot through working with my young partner and through being in the classroom environment."

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Union workers go on strike at Vale court

ABOVE:
Public and Commercial Services Union workers were keen to make their point outside the Vale Magistrates Court in Barry on Monday.

MEMBERS of PCS the (Public and Commercial Services Union) who work at the Vale Magistrates Court in Barry, took part in a national strike on Monday.

The PCS Union said the action was part of a major campaign to fight changes to the civil service compensation scheme.

The union claims the changes would "tear up members' accrued contractual rights and drastically-cut compensation payments in the event of redundancy, whether compulsory or voluntary".

A spokesperson for the PCS group in Barry said they were supporting the broad points being made nationally, but also wanted to highlight the changes locally in the magistrates court.

"Changes to our contracts will mean four of the six administration staff moving to Cardiff or Bridgend.

"It means the service to the public will not be as good and there will be delays in delivering justice."

People were sent over to Barry from Bridgend Magistrates Court to ensure that work continued as normal on Monday.

The Vale MP, John Smith, has met the Justice Minister, Bridget Prentice MP, to lobby her against the proposed move of administration work and staff from the court in Barry.

He said: "I told the Minister that I believe this proposal was made without understanding the full implications of the decision on the efficiency of the courthouse and, crucially, the future standard of service received by court users.

"The proposed move would result in a reduction in the opening hours for the public reception desk. The court's performance rates are above the national average.

"I believe transporting court files every day from Bridgend to Barry, could increase the chances of files being delayed or lost.

"The knock-on effects of the proposal could have a detrimental impact on the courthouse's proud record of service delivery."

He added: "The Minister has agreed to have another look at the proposal."

The Court Service says changes in Barry are "part of an overall exercise to balance workloads and staff numbers across all courts in south east Wales.

Public meets charity fitness challenge in Vale leisure centres

LOCAL people using Vale leisure centres have tackled a fitness challenge – and raised £489 for charity.

"As part of the British Heart Foundation's (BHF) 'Red for Heart' campaign, customers were invited to use various exercise machines to travel the return journey from their chosen Vale leisure centre to the charity's offices in Cardiff," a Vale Council spokesman explained.

Customers in the LifeStyle gym at Penarth had to cover an eight-mile trip, while those at Llantwit Major had to dig deeper and travel 38 miles, via exercise bikes, treadmills, rowers, synchros or wave machines.

BHF (south-east Wales) fundraising volunteer manager, Glenda Meakin, said: "As the nation's heart charity, we depend on donations of time and money to continue our important work of fighting heart disease.

"Thanks to the staff and customers at the Vale leisure centres for all their support."

ABOVE: Glenda Meakin, of the British Heart Foundation (south-east Wales), and Vale Council cabinet member for leisure and tourism, Coun Anthony Ernest, give support to the LifeStyle staff.

Barry College students go for Fairtrade fruit

LEARNERS at Barry College held a 'Fruity Friday' to raise awareness of ethically-sourced alternatives to the usual lunchtime fare, as part of Fairtrade Fortnight.

Foundation Skills students set up a stall in the college's refectory on Friday lunchtime, offering a range of tasty Fairtrade snacks and treats. Muffins, fruit, coffee and special fruit kebabs for dipping in a Fairtrade chocolate fountain were among the delights on offer.

Barry College assistant principal Mark Roberts said: "The college has been a keen backer of Fairtrade for a number of years and it is excellent to see the students get involved in supporting Fairtrade Fortnight in this way."

The stall was inspired by Fairtrade's The Big Swap campaign which encourages people to permanently swap everyday shopping items for ethically sourced alternatives.

The learners were on hand with information about the range of products that now come under the Fairtrade banner, and to explain how easy it is to change over.

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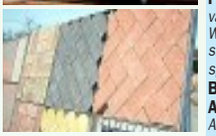

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ARTHUR IS LOOKING FOR A HOME

The GEM has joined forces with the Dog's Trust to find caring new owners for animals in its care at the Bridgend Rehoming Centre. ***(Telephone: 01656 725219)***

A spokeswoman reports: Arthur is an 18-month-old medium to large sized Crossbreed.

He is a lively and at times boisterous young dog who will need further basic training. He is unsure on how to react in new situations and needs to learn some manners.

"He mixes with other dogs but again he can get over excited and will need further socialising to help improve his social skills. He is very playful and lots of fun! He is also housetrained.

"He can live with another calm, well-adjusted dog and also with children 11 years and over. He will need an owner who has owned and trained dogs before. He will need plenty of exercise to channel his energy in the right direction."

ARTHUR.

Local student constructing Wales award

SIGHTS SET ON FINAL

BARRY College construction student Kyle Goddard (17) has reached the final of a top competition hosted at the college's Colcot Road site.

In the south-east heat of Construction SkillsCompetition Wales, Kyle was awarded the bronze medal in carpentry.

Kyle will now travel to Bridgend College to battle it out with competitors from across Wales in the final of the competition later this month.

The student triumphed in a contest to find the most talented vocational and trades people in the country. SkillsCompetition Wales involves colleges, Sector Skills Councils and training providers throughout Wales.

All the regional heat competitors in the construction category were given five hours to complete tasks based on real life work in their chosen discipline.

Barry College principal and chief executive, Paul Halstead, said:

"I am delighted to be hosting the south-east Wales heat of the construction competition.

"It is wonderful to see so many students competing to be the best in Wales.

"SkillsCompetition Wales is an excellent way for trainees to benchmark their skills against the best.

"Everyone gains from these competitions – the young people, their trainers and employers.

"I am pleased that Barry College is playing its part and wish the successful competitors every success at the finals in Bridgend," the principal concluded."

Patriotic flags, dragons and Welsh cakes

St David's Day celebrations at KiddieWinkles Playgroup

ABOVE: The youngsters (and adults) are pictured celebrating national day.

CHILDREN and staff at KiddieWinkles Playgroup in Barry celebrated St David's Day by making Welsh flags, colouring 'dragon' pictures, and experimenting with red playdough.

They also sang along to Welsh rhymes and songs, sharing bara brith and Welsh cakes at snack time, dressing in traditional costume and using simple Welsh phrases throughout the morning.

Lots of fun was had by all in attendance and a big 'thank you' to everyone who took part on the national day.

JM

Night rescue call to Barry lifeboat

THE crew of the Barry Dock Lifeboat were called out to a night rescue, after a yacht and its two-man crew were in trouble last Saturday (March 6).

The drama started when HM Coastguard asked the Barry Dock lifeboat to launch at 9.26pm.

The lifeboat was sent to a 33-foot yacht, which had a rope around its propeller and was drifting five-and-a-half miles south of Nash Point.

The yacht and the two on board, who were uninjured, were towed to Penarth Marina by the Barry Dock Lifeboat under the command of the Cox'n, Hugh 'Spud' Davies.

The Penarth Inshore Lifeboat was called to assist with the final part of the rescue.

Gerry Adams, the volunteer lifeboat press officer, said: "This is a not unusual type of rescue. Any craft under power runs the risk of a fouled propeller at any time. Floating ropes are hard to see in the dark."

The Barry Dock Lifeboat returned to station at 3am the next day.

We welcome your news and views. Please email them to: ***ggem@internet-today.co.uk***

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PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

Woodland walk with Roman medieval and gothic echoes

RECENTLY, Ray stepped into Geraint's shoes as he was indisposed by illness, to lead a walk from Langstone village hall, north-east of the Coldra roundabout at junction 24 on the M4, and seven walkers were glad to come out of semi-hibernation to join him.

Crossing the Magor Road, they joined field footpaths to the right of the A48 and travelled in an easterly direction towards Penhow, turning back to cross the A48 where they walked through the hamlet of Parc-Seymour.

They stopped to admire the Millennium seats and a host of interesting historical carvings, including the Titanic, King Harold complete with arrow, and Penhow Castle, which is just up the road.

They approached Wentwood Gate on the south side of Wentwood Forest, the largest block of ancient woodland within Wales. Once part of a larger forest situated between the Rivers Usk and Wye, it divided Gwent into Gwent Uwchcoed and Iscoed, meaning above and below the wood. Owned primarily by the Woodland Trust, it is now managed by the Forestry Commission for Wales.

Wentwood, during the medieval period, provided a hunting preserve and was exploited for timber for fuel; and later wood was burned in charcoal hearths to produce charcoal essential to the iron industry.

This process was immortalised in Arthur Ransome's 1930's novel, *Swallows and Amazons*. The lovely native mature trees that once graced the wood were also felled during World War One for props and supports in the trenches and were replaced by conifer plantations, which ruined the woodland, but now native trees are being re-introduced.

Entering the wood, where there is a history dating back to Roman times, and evidence of diggings probably for stones, the group faced a long climb along a very pleasant pathway up to the Cat's Ash ridge and then made their way to Kemeys Folly.

Originally built by local landowner George Kemeys as a hunting lodge, it was struck by lightning in the late 1890s and faced ruin, before it was partially rebuilt in the early 1900s.

Situated on top of a hill, this old run down gothic turret, made of dark limestone featured in the television series Grand Designs – when the present owners gutted the ruin and rebuilt this Grade 11 listed building and moved in by December 2008.

The group were treated to glorious views over the Usk Valley towards Pontypool and the Black Mountains and across the Severn Estuary and the Bristol Channel. Then it was time to make their descent by way of The Gorelands farm, and crossing farming land, made their way back to Langstone.

On March 13, meet at 9.30am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a 6-mile easy walk through the Castle Fields at Abergavenny and along the Gilwern Canal; contact Val H. on 029 2051 3274.

On March 14, meet at 10.30am at the Penarth cliff-top car park for a 5-mile easy walk along the coast; contact Krys on 029 2070 0678.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice. For other groups' walks, log onto www.ramblers.org.uk

Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Penarth Computer Club looks at home security

WE were looking forward to an interesting talk by Kevin on the safe use of home computers but it was not to be as he was forced to cancel.

With just two hours' notice, Chris took up the challenge and spoke about setting up a home network and the security implications of using it.

The population of computers is increasing due to the multiplicity of new uses for them and the falling cost of ownership.

More and more households have a second or third computer, as well as other devices that can be attached to them. We are not just talking about printers and scanners here, but of Playstations and Wii devices; of televisions and DVD players for films; of music being piped into any room.

(Not to mention that fridges, freezers, central heating controls, external lighting and security cameras can be networked now – but let's stay with computers.)

The incentive to set up a home network is the economy and convenience of sharing. This can be the sharing of internet connections or attached devices such as printers or file storage.

Imagine sitting in the lounge with a laptop and sending instructions to a printer in another part of the house without having to connect the laptop to the printer with a lead or to transfer the file to the computer running the printer. Bliss.

In the same way you could have a special colour printer for high quality output (expensive) and a cheap black and white one for ordinary stuff – and select which to use by a click of a mouse.

The networking set-up is easy provided you follow the instructions in sequence. A bit of reading up about it all is a good idea. (Type 'home networking' into Google and have a browse around.)

Chris summarised the process with the help of slides and explained about IP addresses and how the devices communicate.

Your network can be all wireless; all cabled or a mixture to suit your needs. The machines do not have to be using the same operating system.

Chris spent some time stressing the need to keep a network secure.

Be aware that the device in your home that connects to the Internet is your router, NOT your PC. If anyone can connect to your router they can download material in your name and without your knowing – until the law knocks on your door! There will be more about that another time.

Some facts of interest: It took radio 38 years to reach 50 million people. It took television 13 years. The World Wide Web did it in four years.

Each device connected to the Internet needs its own unique number. About 4.5 BILLION was thought to be enough. It wasn't. The replacement system will allow thousands of numbers for every person on the planet.

There are more than 1.3 billion people on the internet at any one time.

HOWARD DESMOND (chairman)

Barry Camera Club news

HARRY GARDINER paid a visit to Barry Camera Club recently, to judge the club's monthly competition.

The theme was abstract/colour and members provided Harry with a cornucopia of weird and wonderful images to sift through.

Harry said that he would not judge the competition on the basis of which pictures he would like to hang on his walls. He would try to keep personal taste out of the judging process and concentrate on technical ability and, in this case, how well the pictures fitted the theme.

Harry gave each picture a fairly in-depth analysis and in the end came up with the following results:

Colour Print: 1, Paper by Mark Lowen; 2, Abstract Graffiti by Kathy Edwards; 3, Beach Hut Partitions by Trevor Ford. Monochrome Print: 1, New York Abstract by Hugh Winnan; 2, Monochrome Mondrian by Steve Durbin; 3, (equal) Grey Mare by Rob Owens, 3, (equal) LC2 by Rob Owens.

Projected Image: 1, Pigs Can Fly by Kathy Edwards; 2, Honeycomb by Jean Harvey; 3, (equal) Boardwalk by Jean Harvey, 3, (equal) Milk Drip by Jason Aspinall.

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FOCUS ON....

Vale Business Park

LLANDOW, NEAR COWBRIDGE

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

THE VALE BUSINESS PARK– PLAYING ITS PART IN BEATING THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

TO the casual motorist driving along the Llantwit Major to Cowbridge road at Llandow, the Vale Business Park might look like a 'trade only' enterprise.

It does, of course, have the Weavers retail Ford dealership which is highly visible at the entrance but few drivers realise the number of enterprises that ply their trade on the estate.

In fact, the business park hosts a surprising variety of businesses – all eager for new customers and all with something special to offer.

In these uncertain economic times, there is precious little that experts agree on, but one thing is certain – that small and medium-size privately-owned businesses are crucial to future economic prosperity.

The Vale Business Park has attracted many local entrepreneurs and, as well as employing local people and playing a vital role in the economic life of the Vale, these entrepreneurs have much to offer customers who need to get value for money.

The park was established from the 1970s onwards on what had been part of the old Llandow military airfield – created in 1938 by the MoD.

The man who developed the site is John Winslade, who is chairman of LEL Properties Ltd. His company owns all of the park – and about 80 per cent of the many and varied business units located there.

The rest are units which were privately developed on the firm's land.

Mr Windslade also owns Ledley Engineering, which was one of the first firms to open up on this land.

"The site was originally owned by the Ministry of Defence," he said. "They decided in the 1960s that they did not need it any more and it was put up for sale."

Since acquiring the land, Mr Winslade has invested millions in developing the business park.

"It has grown from fewer than 20 units originally, to the 90 we have at the moment," he said.

"We have a wide variety of businesses here and people are surprised when they visit at what they can find."

Take a tour of the business park and you will find a wide variety of companies offering goods and services including furniture, metal fabrication, joinery, car repair, woodburning stoves, caravans, printing, marquees and a variety of engineering products.

The owners have not been afraid to invest in the park, and a new entrance, complete with a gatehouse, was added in recent years.

The extra security that came with that development has given existing tenants peace of mind, and it is an important element in attracting more enterprises to the park in the future.

The gatehouse, of course, is manned at nights and at weekends.

In fact, a great deal of thought has gone into securing the site, while at the same time creating a good environment to work and do business in.

Stone walls were built around the estate but a number of areas were left undeveloped to provide natural 'green' places to take a break.

Planting around 3,000 trees has moved the development of these areas along nicely, and more and more wildlife has settled there.

Mr Winslade has been through three recessions since he started up on the park.

"We have been through 1976, 1982 and the mid-90s," he said.

The current economic downturn has hung around, but Mr Winslade says that LEL is in a strong position to weather the storm.

However, Mr Winslade is not complacent and he knows how tough it is at the moment for many companies.

He said: "We continue to offer very competitive rates and, as a small, local company we are in a position to negotiate with prospective tenants about terms and conditions.

"I would urge anyone thinking of either re-locating or opening up a new business to pop in or contact our managing agent, Herbert R Thomas in Cowbridge, and we will do our best to get them what they need at a price that's affordable.

"We have a wide variety of units available and we are getting some interest from existing businesses who are looking to move."

Mr Winslade said that the park was a "valuable source of employment in the locality".

ABOVE:
The Vale Business Park has a wealth of surprises in store at Llandow, on the Cowbridge to Llantwit Major road.

siteserv recycling

Making recycling work for everyone...

Siteserv has devised a new service designed to help companies recycle their paper and cardboard waste in a convenient and cost-effective way.

We now run a comprehensive collection service with a one-off fixed charge of just **£5** per collection, regardless of quantity. We have also opened a new Material Recycling Facility on the Vale Business Park, to which our customers can bring their waste paper and cardboard for recycling, for **FREE!**

Siteserv are also specialists in the handling of confidential waste and our secure destruction service offers our customers peace of mind at competitive rates. Our state of the art recycling centre manages your confidential items with speed and discretion, while all collections are undertaken by fully trained and audited staff.

For more information call 0845 600 2228 or email info@siteservecycling.com

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SHOWROOM OPEN

Colin and his team have moved just around the corner into a new unit. . . Now based in a much larger building, still on Vale Business Park, Llandow – an easy place to visit – no problems with parking, loading, etc, hassle free, and where else will you get a friendly, first class service, locally based.

Solar panels (energy), renewable energy, central heating and boilers. Bathrooms, kitchens and tiling. Installation and maintenance of all gas, oil and solid fuel boilers. Plumbing and heating upgrades.

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FOCUS ON....

Vale Business Park

LLANDOW, NEAR COWBRIDGE

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

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Car and customer collection available
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LEFT: The team at Owens Motor Services are always happy to help.

Richard Couzens welcome customers old and new

RICHARD Couzens Machinery Ltd is going from strength-to-strength, supplying and maintaining both agricultural machinery to the farming industry and horticultural equipment to the general public.

Recent expansion to the company has now included a counter service area for customers, with a showroom area currently housing new mowers.

The company will repair, service or supply mowers according to your needs.

It has a part exchange system available; you can even have a courtesy mower, if you have unexpected special plans.

Your item can be repaired on site, or staff will collect and deliver free of charge – as and when necessary.

The company team is local to the Vale and has a wealth of experience and knowledge. Staff are all friendly, reliable and helpful .

Richard would like to thank all existing customers for their past loyalty and looks forward to their continued custom.

He also welcomes new customers – so come and look around!

There are great prices and everybody is welcome.

HOW TO FIND US ...

Entering the Vale Business Park, Llandow, you follow the main road into the site and keep straight ahead, practically to the end to where road narrowing pillars are situated. Turn right and then take the first left; the entrance is at the end of this street.

Call for more information on 01446 771660 or email us on: couzensmachinery@btconnect.com.

ABOVE: LEL Properties Ltd.

L.E.L.
(Properties) Limited

UNITS AVAILABLE

Please call LEL Properties

Unit 35, Vale Business Park
Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan
CF71 7PF

T. (01446) 774806
F. (01446) 773986
E. lelproperties@ledley.co.uk

Owens Motor Services for all repairs and MoTs

ALUN and the team welcome you to Owens Motor Services. The company has now been established for 29 years, and it is a friendly, working environment where many customers drop in for a chat and a cuppa.

The firms offers MoTs in the refurbished MoT bay with all retests free (within 10 working days).

Mechanical repairs and servicing are carried out to all makes and models, including light commercials, 4x4s, camper vans and the old classics.

Manufacturers' warranty is not affected by any work.

The firm also does warranty work and diagnostics.

Car collection is available in the surrounding Vale area by prior appointment.

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Llandow Classics – for the true motorcycle enthusiast

LLANDOW CLASSICS was set up in October 2006 and was the idea of classic motorcycle enthusiasts, Chris Williams and Baz Cooper, who had previously worked together in the aircraft industry.

As the largest Royal Enfield motorcycle dealer in south Wales, the business is located at Unit 27a, Vale Business Park, near the back gate.

The company has the new EFI Electra and the new Classic 500 machines in stock, and now has both available as a demonstrator. If you would like to take a test ride, all you need to bring along is your helmet and driving licence.

We stock a range of new parts and accessories, including Davida Helmets, Halycyon Goggles, Buffs and Miller Classic Oils and can order items as required. We also offer a full workshop service, including wheel builds, servicing and renovation.

In addition, Llandow Classics also stocks a new range of motorcycle-related gift ideas – ideal – if you are looking for something for the motorcycle enthusiast.

Anyone is welcome to pop in for coffee, have a look at our bikes and take the new EFI Enfields out for a spin!

Llandow Classics Ltd
Dedicated to the usable classic motorcycle

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See page 14 for more businesses that can be found on Vale Business Park

FOCUS ON....

Vale Business Park

LLANDOW, NEAR COWBRIDGE

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Everything you could need for your caravan (and more)!

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Approved by All Leading Caravan Manufacturers.

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OPEN seven days a week, Vale of Glamorgan Caravans has been established for nearly 10 years and is a local dealer that can offer the complete package of servicing, storage, parts, accessories and awnings.

It also specialises in the sale of quality pre-owned caravans, ranging from starter to high specification luxury models – all fully checked for your peace of mind.

ABOVE: A caravan being worked on at Vale Caravan Sales.

LEFT: Peak Performance, offering competitive prices and a warm and friendly service, is another of the wide range of companies to be found at the Vale Business Park.

Peak Performance offer great service and technical expertise

- Servicing & Repair on all makes. (without affecting manufacturers' warranty.)
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WHEN you pop into Peak Performance, you can always be assured of a warm and welcoming service, offering competitive prices across the board.

The company has a history spanning 20 years. It has grown from strength to strength, and in 2006 moved onto the Vale Business Park.

Offering servicing, MoTs, vehicle maintenance, tyres and other products, Peak Performance is truly a one-stop shop for all your car's needs.

It has three qualified MoT testers and also has specific training on Volkswagen, Audi, diesel and a range of diagnostics.

LEFT: The Riverlea showroom – there are many businesses based on the Vale Business Park, some of which you may not even have realised were there!

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ABOVE: The Topstak showroom.

Wilcare Holdings Ltd offers quality furniture

Wilcare Wales Ltd, Relax & Recline Chairs UK Ltd and Boston Designs Ltd are part of Wilcare Holdings Ltd, and are all manufacturers of high-quality furniture.

We are having a pre-Easter sale to make way for our new spring and summer collections and, therefore, need extra space.

The furniture that we have on offer ranges from three piece suites, sofas and chairs to electric rise and recline chairs.

All items in our sale are either cancelled orders, or returns – due to the furniture not being able to get into a house.

To arrange a viewing, please call Melanie on 01446 772227.

If you missed out on promoting your company in this feature, you can still take advantage of The GEM's coverage - from Penarth to Porthcawl and online, by appearing in our next 'In Business' feature in April.

Wilcare
Wales Premier manufacturer of furniture

Sale of sofa's, chairs & electric rise and recline chairs

All cancelled orders and stock clearance

Prices to clear to make way for new stock

Tel: 01446 772227 to arrange viewing

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Telephone: 01446 772227 **Fax:** 01446 772228
Email: gordon@wilcarewales.co.uk **Web:** www.wilcarewales.co.uk

Burton's Wonderland is the most peculiar (but unexciting) place to be!

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

EITHER Tim Burton has some kind of grasp over Johnny Depp, or the pair just really enjoy working together!

Since *Edward Scissorhands* in 1991, the pair have worked together seven times, hitting the heights with the likes of *Sweeney Todd*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *Ed Wood*.

Having seemingly developed their own shorthand with a hint of macabre, their latest joint effort sees them take on Lewis Carroll's famed *Alice in Wonderland*.

Alice (played by newcomer Mia Wasikowsa) is now 17, her adventures in Wonderland back in her childhood and forgotten.

When she is forced into a marriage proposal she has no wish to entertain, she runs off to follow the White Rabbit (voiced by Michael Sheen). Since she was last there, Wonderland has been taken over by the Red Queen (Helena Bonham Carter), who has overthrown the White Queen (Anne Hathaway), and the people of Wonderland hope Alice can fight the Jabberwocky in order to overthrow the evil queen.

However, she cannot do it alone, and must rely on help from all of those in Wonderland, such as Tweedledum and Tweedledee (Matt Lucas), the Blue Caterpillar (voiced by Alan Rickman) and, of course, the Mad Hatter (Depp)...

Retreading ground that has already been trampled on is not the best of options for Tim Burton – on the basis of his woeful 'reimagining' of *Planet of the Apes*. Since that travesty, however, Burton has hit form, with the likes of *Big Fish* and *Sweeney Todd* returning him to the heights of past glories.

Alice in Wonderland, however, is less a step back for the director, and more of a side step into a world where the end product is a mish-mash that entertains in fits and starts, but lacks any real cohesion or grip.

Certainly, the idea is a sound one, taking Lewis Carroll's story and imagining a sequel to it, where Alice is older and cannot remember the first time she fell down the rabbit hole. But a sound idea does not always make for a sound story, and that is the case here.

Linda Woolverton's screenplay does a clever job of taking the meat of the original and updating it, but by doing this she ends up trying to fit so much in that nothing much of it feels all that consequential in the grand scheme of things.

Characters pop up here and there, most of the time for little reason other than to seemingly create a connection between the original and this story, which makes for a film that bustles and hurries without ever really doing anything.

It's a shame, as contained within are some performances of real enjoyment. Mia Wasikowsa holds the screen incredibly well in her debut feature film performance, giving Alice a touch of depth and independence, yet still with a hint of wide-eyed innocence once she falls down the rabbit hole, while performances (physical and vocal) from the likes of Matt Lucas, Crispin Glover and Michael Sheen mean that the film isn't lacking in terms of performance.

The most intriguing turns are from Burton's right-hand man Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter. The former may be seemingly placing his stock wholly in kooky characters with peculiar quirks and tics, but he gives the Hatter a sense of pathos and sadness behind the garish hair and pale face.

Coupled with a split personality trait that sees him occasionally crack out a Glaswegian brogue and you have a performance that, while engaging, is more than a little off-kilter, and while wholly watchable, is ever so slightly peculiar.

Bonham Carter's turn is probably the most entertaining of all, channelling Queenie from Blackadder as the Red Queen with a head far larger than her body and full of rage and tyranny. Ordering 'Off with their heads' on a regular basis, her performance is winningly wonderful, played lightly but a hint of macabre - hers is a turn that strikes all the right notes.

As ever, Burton's direction is as gothic and twisted as ever, using his unique visual sensibility to create a film that isn't lacking in colour or creativity. What it is lacking in is much in the way of excitement, with the film lacking any truly notable moments.

There are sequences of real skill and bravura (Alice falling down the rabbit hole, the red and white armies meeting on a giant chessboard) but they are all too fleeting; couple this with a weak use of the 3-D technology (something that, since the release of *Avatar*, has taken on far greater importance) and you have a film that while kaleidoscopic in colour, never quite hits the spot as you hope it would.

In among the myriad of peculiar characters and off kilter moments there is an entertaining film lurking; however, Burton appears more concerned with making a wilfully offbeat film than an entertaining one, and while *Alice In Wonderland* is a interesting viewing experience, it rarely feels like an essential one.

VERDICT – Another weird, but only slightly wonderful, offering from Tim Burton, *Alice In Wonderland* entertains in fits and starts but is too concerned with its peculiarities to make for a enjoyable viewing experience.

Good turns from the likes of Mia Wasikowsa, Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter raise the levels, but overall it makes for a slightly underwhelming watch. *Average*.

Henri shatters a Ty Hafan record!

Henri Armelin presents Gaynor Taylor of Ty Hafan with the record breaking cheque.

HENRI ARMELIN is a Ty Hafan record breaker after raising the most money ever for a sponsored head shave.

The 16-year old, from The Knap in Barry, was able to present Gaynor Taylor, a Ty Hafan community fundraising co-ordinator, with a record £3145.61.

Henri smashed the record of £1,610 previously raised for the charity from a head-shaving event.

Gaynor said: "This is a huge sum Henri has raised. It will help us to continue to offer care and support to the life-limited children, young people and their families who desperately need it.

"Everyone at Ty Hafan is extremely grateful to him for his selfless act and raising such an enormous amount of money for the charity."

Also at the presentation, was Stas Asprou of Asprou Gent's Hairdressers in Broad Street, Barry who was given the responsibility of shaving Henri's hair.

Mayor's coffee

THE Mayor of the Vale will hold a charity coffee morning at the Corporate Suite, Civic Office, Holton Road, Barry, on Tuesday, March 23 at 10.30am-12noon.

All proceeds will go to the ValePlus charity.

Former rugby star 'full of remorse' court is told

FORMER rugby star, JPR Williams, appeared in a Cardiff court on Monday, where he was banned for 17 months on a drink-driving charge.

He had failed a breath test after being stopped in his red Audi cabriolet in Cardiff and put in a patrol car to be taken to a police station for another test. He had placed coins in his mouth in a mistaken attempt to thwart the breathalyser readings.

A blood sample showed 142 millgrammes of alcohol in 100 millitres of blood; the legal limit is 80.

Cardiff magistrates heard that police stopped the former surgeon's car after being told a similar vehicle had been stolen. However, his solicitor, Nigel Daniel, said: "I wonder how many other red Audis have the registration number JPR."

Mr Daniel said JPR and another former Wales star had been entertained at London Welsh's ground in Old Deer Park in Richmond during a match on January 30.

The pair were chauffered back to Cardiff where JPR took the "stupid and misconceived" idea to drive back eight miles to his home in Llansannor.

He said: "Dr Williams was under the foolish apprehension that after a four-hour journey he would be fit to drive. It was a costly mistake."

"To say that his arrest and detention had a salutary effect on him would be an understatement. He was terrified. He is full of remorse.

"He feels he has let his family down, his friends and those who held him in high regard for his sporting prowess.

"He is somebody who as a medical expert should clearly have known better."

Mr Williams was fined £380 with £85 and £15 victim surcharge after admitting drink-driving. His 17-month ban will be cut by four months if he attends a course.

Outside court, his solicitor said: "He regrets the actions which led him to appear here today. He hopes some good will come of today and that others, both young and old, will not follow his example and will refrain from drink-driving.

"He would also warn people not to drive in the mistaken belief that alcohol has left the system."

Burglars strike at Barry Island

BARRY police are investigating a burglary at a house on Heol Eryr Mor, Barry Island, between 3am and 7am on Saturday, February 27 – when a handbag was stolen containing cash, bank cards and £40 of John Lewis vouchers.

Anyone with information is asked to contact DC Lee Davies at Barry CID on 01446 731606, or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Dyffryn Gardens is free for Mother's Day!

LOOKING for a special way to show your mum what she means to you this Mother's Day, March 14 – if so, why not take her to popular Dyffryn Gardens for free?

The special offer follows the success of previous similar events at the Vale Council-owned tourist attraction and, to take advantage of the offer, all it needs is for mums to be accompanied by a full paying child or adult.

Vale Council cabinet member for leisure and tourism Coun Anthony Ernest commented: "After such a fantastic response to St David's Day, Dyffryn Gardens has once again shown the important role it plays, not only as a local attraction, but also in encouraging tourism to the area. I hope that many families take advantage of this wonderful opportunity and visit the gardens this Mother's Day."

For more information on visiting the gardens or about any of the events taking place throughout the year, visit www.dyffryngardens.com

Gibbonsdown centre AGM

GIBBONSDOWN Community Centre is holding its managements AGM today (March 11) at 6pm in the Community Centre, Ramsey Road, Barry.

Moving with the times...

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Nant-yr-Adar, Llangewydd Court, Bridgend
£124,995
Oak kitchen, conservatory, no ongoing chain

Adare Street, Ogmore Vale, Bridgend
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Charles Street, Bridgend
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enquiries@brightermoveswales.co.uk

Yet another victory for Barry RFC!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 36

This unnecessary error put the interval score at 28-7 to Barry.

In the third quarter, Barry toiled to maintain the momentum of the first half and errors in handling and missed tackles began to creep into their game. Perhaps it was as a result of lapsed concentration, an opposition which had upped its game, a referee who saw fit not to allow a rout, or a combination of all three.

In any event, Barry continued to interest the scorers when Hollister crossed with a short-range unconverted try after 15 minutes. Barry steadied the ship with some excellent kicking in both attack and defence.

They appeared to have scored the try of the afternoon when Ryan touched down after excellent approach work by Glyn Jones, Gill and Busutil. However, the referee decided to delay the award while he dealt with 'handbags' near the halfway line.

He gave no penalty for these hostilities, but then called for a scrummage on Old Pens' 22-metre line and gave the put-in to the home side!

Barry continued to create good pressure in line-out and maul, but curiously lost their supremacy at the tight scrums. Barry, however, did finish proceedings on a high note when a move of six passes involving forwards and backs created a fine converted try for Ryan.

As well as a good attacking performance, the efficient and focussed defending continues to impress, with an average of less than eight points conceded per game.

Next match is away to Cilfynydd on Saturday, March 20.

Awards

The players' annual presentation awards will this year be in the form of a Dinner Dance to be held at the Memorial Hall on Saturday, June 12.

Those wishing to reserve a table (minimum of 10 seats) should contact Andy Jamieson (01446 411737) as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Tickets are £30 per head.

Sea View's power is not enough

CIACS RFC	**47**
SEA VIEW RFC	**12**

THE View visited CIACS with high hopes of a victory, having run them close in the home fixture.

Sadly, it turned into a bad day at the office. Despite superb work from the Sea View pack at the set piece, Phil Hughes giving the CIACS' front jumper a torrid time, CIACS established a healthy lead.

The score line of 28-0 at half-time did not reflect the effort of the View. The pack well and truly had the better of CIACS at the set piece, driving them off their own ball on a number of occasions, with the CIACS forwards disappearing under the Blue and Black steamroller.

The lineout benefited again from the return of Chris Hann, playing his 25th game for the View, he secured plenty of opposition ball. Rhys MacAloon at the rear had a great game, ably assisted by front row lifters, Messrs Burston, Huelin and Veness.

Trevor Huelin made some great runs in the loose, as did the back row, Joe Maytum, Chris Hann and Jon Blake. Blake gave the CIACS defenders a lesson in the use of the hand off.

Deep into the second half the View were rewarded for their efforts, the forwards driving over from close range for Chris Hann to score, and the conversion was added by Damion Huggins.

A second try was scored soon after, Huggins and Macaloon grounding the ball together, backs and forwards in perfect unity!

Final score: CIACS 47 - Sea View 12.

The View return to league action on March 27 for an away fixture at Tongwynlais, before a final league match on April 10 at home against Sully. See www.seaviewrfc.co.uk for details.

MARK VENESS

Barry under-15s' in five star performance

AN excellent first half performance saw Barry under-15s see off a hard working Machen team on Sunday.

Barry dominated large periods of the first half through the muscularity of their forward play and the promptings of Sam Roberts who excelled in the outside-half's role.

The Barry side threatened to run in a hatful of tries, based on the platform provided by the forwards led by captain Tom Warren, who continually set an example to his players with his commitment and determination.

Based on the foundation provided by the pack, the Barry side run in four tries in the first half.

The opening try was scored by flanker Jordan Clark who typified the forward effort by bulldozing his way over the try line.

The second try continued the Barry team's domination and allowed the backs to show off their ability.

Centre Daniel Maciliston, displayed his deft skills in sidestepping several players as he made his way over the whitewash.

The backs continued to capitalise. Sam Roberts typified this by firstly identifying and then taking full advantage of a gap in the Machen defence.

The fourth try was scored by winger Isaac Mayne in the corner. With two of the tries converted by Kyle Baros, Barry led 24-0 at half-time.

The second half was a dour affair with both sides making a number of errors; however, it was lit up by a superb individual effort by Kyle Baros, whose break from the base of the scrum saw Machen players grasping at thin air as he ghosted his way under the posts.

Kyle smacked over the conversion to collect all seven points and deliver a well earned victory for the Barry boys.

Final score: 31-0 to Barry.

RM

Preservation is the name of the game?

IT'S all very well the Welsh rugby team giving a 20-point start to some sides, but to do it against the formidable French was suicidal.

It begs the question just how does it happen? I think I can remember from when I was playing rugby, at a fairly high level, and I don't think things have changed that much since then.

You are threatened by one or two of the opposition and your first instinct is self-preservation – ie get rid of the ball asap – and transfer the ball to another of your side who then has the problem!

It's called 'self-preservation' and no amount of coaching is going to alter that (unless your name is JPR!).

It is a shame that this attractive side is not going to win as many games as it should, but that's the way it is.

Ian M Jewell,
Cowbridge

Girls' football invite

DINAS Powys Girls Football Club would like to invite any girls aged seven to 11 who would like to start playing football to taster sessions which will be held for the next four weeks on Fridays 5.15pm-6.15pm at Colcot Astro Pitch, Barry Sports Centre.

Dinas Powys currently have teams in the South Wales Girls League at under-12, under-14, under-17 levels and also a senior ladies team.

For more information, contact Gino Esposito on 07837 046311 or Dave Buffin on 07872 838751.

NSPCC quiz

BARRY Central NSPCC committee is holding a quiz evening at 7.30pm in St Francis Millennium Hall, Park Road, Barry, on Saturday, March 27.

For tickets, telephone 01446 746829.

News from Sully Bridge Club

THE latest results for Sully Bridge Club are as follows:

Monday, March 1: N/S - 1st Evarard Kerslake and Malcolm Frieze; 2nd Pat Evans and Jane Greatrex; 3rd Avis Sowels and John Pikoulis.

E/W - 1st Beryl Marke and Pat Walker; 2nd Bunty Wiseman and Trish Tracy; 3rd John Worlock and Janet Cunnington.

Results for Wednesday, March 3: N/S 1st Betty Lewis and Trish Tracy; 2nd Avis Sowels and John Pikoulis; 3rd Sheila Kavanagh and Joan Thompson.

E/W - 1st Eileen Hughes and Tony Hall; 2nd Betty Hollis and Dorothy Foulkes; 3rd John Worlock and Sean Macdougall.

Ladder tournament results: 1st - Betty Lewis and Trish Tracy; 2nd - Anne Hilary Jones and Anne Macdougall; 3rd - Pat Evans and Jayne Greatrex.

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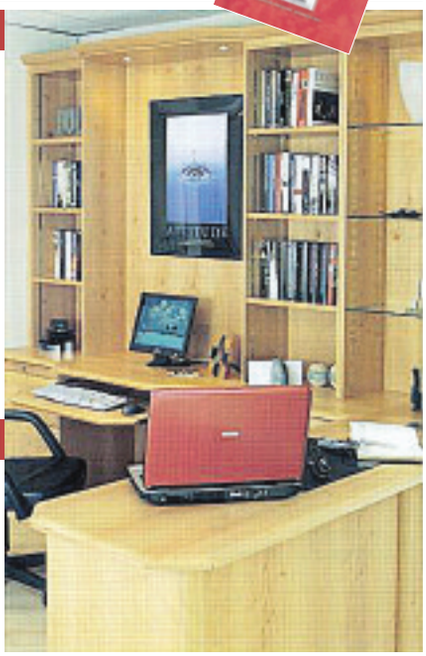

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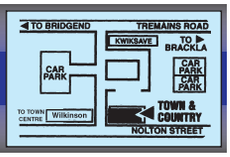

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A company spokesman explained: "We offer a wide range of upgrading services with special discounts for OAPs.

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"We don't replace something unless it is absolutely necessary – in this way Future Window Solutions saves customers' money."

There are a number of other services that the company offers.

The spokesman added: "We can facelift your home, replacing tired looking fascias, soffits and gutters with our high quality components to give your roofline an attractive, clean edge finish. All our products are available in a range of colours to match your fittings.

"We also do internal repairs or improvements such as painting and decorating, and work involving capentry and joinery. If you want work done to internal doors, a bathroom or a kitchen, then give us a call.

"We proud of our green credentials too – our products are 100 per cent recyclable and we only offer energy saving products too."

Who wants to build what and where?

Mr Mark Allen – **7 Wesley Avenue, Rhoose, Barry** – ground and first floor extensions to rear and two dormer extensions to front.

Prisk Pub Co Ltd – **City Inn, City, Llansannor** – conversion of former public house to single dwelling including external alterations.

Mr Eric Roberts – **The Lodge, 1 Coed Masernen, Colwinston** – demolition of garage to side. Construction of two storey extension to side and single storey extension to rear.

Cofton (Wales) Limited – **former Llanilid Opencast Coal Site, Llanharan** – vary conditions attached to planning permission 04/1246/13 to provide for additional time for submission of reserved matters and commencement of development and to vary multiple conditions relating to that permission.

The Co-operative Group – **Somerfield Supermarket, Boverton Road, Llantwit Major** – provide new mechanical plant in position indicated on plan, with new pallisade fence to match existing.

Mr Rob Baron – **St Kevern, 10 Craig Yr Eos Road, Ogmore By Sea** – existing loft conversion and proposed rear extension to residential property.

Persimmon Homes Limited – **land at and adjoining White Farm, Merthyr Dyfan, Barry** – residential and open space development, including associated building and engineering operations.

Mr E Goodfellow – **Plots 9A, 10A and 11A Marconi Holiday Village, Fort Road, Penarth** – seasonal chalets (10 months, March 1-December 31).

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National Trust members' meeting

THE Vale of Glamorgan Association of National Trust members met in Cowbridge recently and enjoyed an interesting talk given by Mr David Harrison, on 'Dylan Thomas Lives On'.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 17 at 7.30pm in the Duke of Wellington, when the speaker, Ms Kate Roberts, will talk about 'Kidwelly Castle'.

Membership of the association is open to any paid-up member of the National Trust or National Trust for Scotland, or spouse/partner of a life member, or a National Trust staff member or volunteer.

In the spring and summer, the group organises trips to various National Trust properties, which are always most enjoyable. New members are welcome.

For further information, contact the membership secretary on 01443 223230.

THE HARE AND HOUNDS DELIVERS HIGH QUALITY DINING IN THE VALE

REVIEW by TIM CHAPMAN

TEN months have passed since business partners Jeff Gladwin and Kevin Cooper, along with their wives Linda and Emma, took over The Hare and Hounds in Aberthin, setting themselves the challenge of providing a high quality, but affordable Vale dining experience.

As befits one of the area's oldest pubs – it dates back to the 14th century – the old stone walls and hearth centrepiece provide a traditional setting to the restaurant, but with a modern, sophisticated décor which is complemented by subdued lighting.

Jeff and Kevin recruited half French, half Moroccan chef Rachid Azouz whose aim has been to provide a mixture of traditional and exotic dishes, with a touch of Mediterranean flair.

There was good selection of wines starting from a house wine to a wider choice of white, red and rose, and for the connoisseur a fine wine list. Since my wife is the wine expert in the family, she chose a pleasant Patriarche Sauvignon blanc from the fine wine list at £15 a bottle.

For the quality of what was offered, the prices of the starters were very reasonable, ranging from £3.95 to £4.95.

Deep fried brie on a bed of mixed leaf salad and cranberry salsa – my wife's choice – was £3.95. The brie was lovely and creamy with just a light coating of bread crumbs, beautifully presented and the cranberry sauce added the finishing touch in lifting the flavour of the brie.

ABOVE:
Offering a high quality service are Chef Rachid Azouz, manager Richard Phelps and waitresses Gracie Arnot and Sandy Thomas.

My choice was Thai king prawns marinated in garlic, served with guacamole on a bed of lettuce at £4.95 – the prawns were large and succulent, and the garlic marinade gave it a real zing.

Main courses are priced from £7.95 for a home made curry, for example, to £17.95 for the finest fillet steak.

My wife chose cannon of Welsh lamb, served with a sauté of French beans and shallots with Dauphinoise potatoes and port jus at £9.95. It was served medium rare and was beautifully cooked, retaining the juices and very tender. The French beans were just right and the port jus was "to die for"; it really brought the flavours together.

I was tempted by the spinach, asparagus and ricotta strudel with rocket and red pesto at £9.95. The spinach, asparagus and ricotta were lovely and fresh, and wrapped in a parcel of filo pastry that was light and crisp.

There was also a good range of other home-made dishes to chose from.

Neither of us like heavy desserts, so we chose profiteroles with fresh double cream at £3.95 and raspberry cheesecake at £3.95.

There was a comprehensive range of other desserts to tempt your palate all at £3.95, except for the ice-cream which was only £1.50.

Along with drinks the evening came out at just over £50.

The service from Richard Phelps, the manager, and waitresses Sandy and Gracie was friendly and attentive.

It looks as if partners Jeff and Kevin are succeeding in their aim, and are likely to build a sound reputation in the months to come.

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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Saturday 13th March
Dean Scott - Vocalist (9pm)

Sunday 14th March
Mother's Day Traditional Sunday Roast plus Flamenco Guitar Player (12pm)

Saturday 20th March
Daz - Vocalist (9pm)

Saturday 27th March
Peter Sheriaden - Vocalist (9pm)

Friday 2nd April
Darryl Wyn - Guitarist/Vocals (9pm)

Saturday 3rd April
Supernatural Sound - Band (9pm)
A crowd pleasing band

Sunday 4th April
Samantha Adams - Vocalist (9pm)
Superbly powerful voice, one not to miss

It looks like being a classic summer season here at the Ocean Lounge. With a few more improvements, both in sound and lighting, and some changes to the menu with a NEW SPECIALS BOARD, we are definitely worth visiting.

Can you be entertained? Mixing it up a bit more this year. As well as cabaret nights on a Saturday we will be having some BANDS AND COMEDIANS plus a mixture of other acts on a Friday such as KARAOKE, THEME NIGHTS, BAND NIGHTS, COMEDY NIGHTS, even HYPNOTISTS and DRAG ARTISTS, there is something for everyone. It's the only place to go to over the Bank holiday weekends, with 3 big nights of entertainment. Keep an eye out for what's coming.

And to eat? We offer a great value MENU FROM ONLY £4.99 with traditional family favourites, plus some more unusual fayre too. Don't forget our Curry with a pint on Thursday evenings. It's been really popular, with home made curries changing weekly, plus the Thursday quiz. SUNDAY LUNCH FROM £6.95 offers exceptional value for a table served meal in relaxed surroundings without the hustle and the bustle of the usual carvery fare. You will need to be quick to book a table for Mothers Day. For this special day we will have a FLAMENCO GUITAR PLAYER to entertain you whilst you dine.

The location? With fantastic views from the cliff top overlooking the Bristol Channel, with views to The Knap and the historic islands of Steepholm and Flatholm, and on a clear day across to Weston, it is a great place to find refreshment with a large CLIFF TOP PATIO AND OUTDOOR SEATING. And yet only a 10 minute trip from Barry or Llantwit Major. What else? A LARGE CAR PARK and pleasant location makes us an ideal place to hold a wedding reception, birthday party, conference or any private function. Bookings are already being taken for the popular CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHTS. In short, a great place, serving good food and good beer, with great atmosphere!

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Friday 9th April
Karaoke (8pm)

Saturday 10th April
Christine Black - Vocalist (9pm)

Friday 16th April
The Mopheads (9pm)
Three guitarists with an incredible stage presence

Saturday 17th April
Chris Martin - Vocalist (9pm)

Friday 23rd April
James Alexander - Vocalist (9pm)
Cracking voice, great songlist

Saturday 24th April
Holly Wilson - Vocalist (9pm)

Friday 30th April
Oblivious - Band (9pm)
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Out and About with The GEM

PORTHCAWL ARTIST STAGES NEW EXHIBITION AT DONAT'S

A LOCAL artist is currently staging an exhibition of abstract work at the St Donat's Arts Centre.

Peter Millis of Porthcawl is a retired architect turned artist who is interested in patterns, colours, shapes and "soul-searching designs".

He expresses these on canvas and board, mainly in acrylics. He started his artwork in 2005 and joined the Silures Art Group of Porthcawl in 2006.

The exhibition was formally opened by fellow artist Patricia Mears before an audience including many local artists.

The exhibition runs at the St Donats Art Centre until March 30.

ABOVE: The artist and his wife Marian mingle with the audience at St Donat's.

(Photograph by Keith E Morgan).

ABOVE: Patricia Mears with Peter and Marian discussing the merits of one of the artist's creations. (Photograph by Keith E Morgan).

Ty Hafan's latest lottery draw winning numbers

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number 608.

● **£2000:** 266803.

● **The rollover, which now stands at £4,000 was not claimed this week.**

● **£10:** 248019; 636547; 346126; 445665; 402381; 592142; 230816; 199680; 807899; 227030; 620583; 679589; 831658; 538534; 383457; 856730; 542179; 284873; 452373; 633039.

● **£5:** 493676; 670337; 633405; 775114; 876693; 521635; 424376; 318777; 305079; 919452; 186208; 495616; 351096; 328281; 723802; 848271; 245523; 865048; 465527; 174220; 431388; 148198; 862901; 633689; 642843; 499913; 112263; 433043; 204705; 127626; 880521; 558045; 429809; 351666; 342888; 904063; 232448; 793333; 764876; 273297; 535661; 635210; 459066; 365704; 208329; 151829; 518339; 215085; 229415; 818835; 481430; 247358; 881496; 168326; 119479; 450516; 191753; 426545; 395923; 828635.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

ART SOCIETY

THE Cowbridge Art Society will meet on Thursday, March 18 at 7pm in Old Hall, High Street, when Charlotte Leadbetter will be giving a demonstration on figures in motion (ballet) in mixed media.

Non-members are welcome.

Coffee at care centre

FOR the last 10 years, the Care Centre on Barry Island has been run jointly by the Red Cross, NHS and Social Services.

It will now be run by the Barry Red Cross and the link group will be holding a coffee morning on March 20 from 10.30am-12noon.

There will be a raffle and stalls; admission 50p with tea/coffee and biscuits.

The centre at Breaksea Drive, Barry Island, is open for daily respite care.

Vale roadworks

Plassey Street, junctions with Glebe Street/Albert Road, Penarth – carriageway width restrictions.
Pontypridd Street - junction with Mount Pleasant – footway restriction in place.
St Brides Super Ely from junction with Cyepyn Lane to Heol St Y Nyll – road closure.
B4265 opposite the Monument to Gileston Village – road closure.
Caerau Lane, Wenvoe – temporary traffic control.
Junction Bradenham Place to Hickman Road, Penarth – temporary traffic control.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Plaid surgery

THERE will be a Plaid advice surgery for local residents with councillors Caroline Turner and Barry Shaw (who will be joined by Keith Stockdale) at Holton Primary School, Pyke Street, Barry, from 11am-12midday this Saturday (March 13).

No appointments are necessary.

Valeways walks

WEDNESDAY, March 17 at 1.30pm, Plas Llanmihangel Valley. Start opposite Victoria Inn, Sigingstone.

Staurday, March 20, 10.30am Penmark, Millennium circular (part two) Six Bells, Penmark car park.

Tuesday, March 23, 1.30pm Penarth - promenade and parks. Start at Penarth Cliff Tops car park.

Diabetes charity meets at hospital

THE Vale branch of Diabetes UK Cymru is meeting on Tuesday, March 16, in the board room at Llandough Hospital at 7.30pm.

The speaker will be Dr Julia Platts (consultant diabetologist). New members are welcome.

For further information, telephone 01446 746639.

PACT meetings

COURT PACT, Scout Hall, Ilminster Street, today (March 11), 7.30pm.

STANWELL PACT, Glyndwr Community Centre, Penarth, March 11, 7pm.

CADOC PACT, Palmerston Community Centre, March 17, 7pm.

CASTLELAND PACT, Civic Offices, Holton Road, March 29, 7pm.

ILLTYD PACT, Mount Sorrel Hotel, March 30, 7pm.

BARUC PACT, St Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, March 30, 7.15pm.

RHOOSE PACT, Celtic Way Community Centre, March 30, 7pm.

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Young Performers which is aimed at 7-11 year olds who want to improve their singing and performance skills. Over the 10 weeks we will cover various songs, from west end to pop, harmonies, solo's, dance, and drama. **Every Tuesday 4.30pm-6pm @The Little Shop of Clam, 1 Westgate. Cowbridge. £65 per 10 week term. £8.50 per class.**

Stagecamp are now enrolling for Singing/Drama tuition held at **The Stagecamp Studio, tutor Lianne Morgan, only 5 places available 10am - 11am ages 14, 15, and 16, 11am - 12pm 5 and 6 year olds. There will only be 5 pupils per class £100 for 10 weeks.**

For more info e-mail contact@liannemorgan.co.uk or visit www.stagecamp.co.uk

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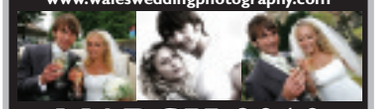

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Gerddi Margaret, Barry - £89,950
• Modern 2 bed • 1st Floor Apartment
• Waterfront estate • 2 parking spaces
• No Chain • Ideal FTB/investment

Harvey Street, Barry - £99,950
• 4 double bed terrace • Utility area • Ideal FTB/buy to let investment • Fitted kitchen with built in apps • Low maintenance garden

Cadoc Crescent, Barry - £99,950
• 3 bed semi • 2 reception rooms • No chain
• Would benefit from updating throughout
• Good size garden • Ideal investment

Kingsland Crescent, Barry - £123,750
• 3 bed terrace • 3 reception rooms • Garage to rear • Bathroom with feature sunken bath
• Low maintenance, south-facing garden

Churchfields, Barry - £123,950
• Modern 2 bed semi • Desirable cul-de-sac
• Fitted kitchen with built in cooker
• Modern bathroom • Garden • Driveway

Dudley Place, Barry - £139,995
• 4 bed mid terrace • Set in cul-de-sac
• 2 reception rooms • Off road parking
• Good size rear garden • No Chain

St Osyth Court, Barry - £157,500
• 2 double bed f/f apartment • Sea views
• Rarely on the market • Benefit from updating
• Balcony • Parking space • No Chain

Sherbourne Close, Highlight Park - £159,950
• 3 bed semi • Desirable cul-de-sac
• Driveway • Longer than average garage
• Conservatory • Rear garden

Trem Mapgoll, Pencoedtre Village - £164,950
• Modern 3 bed semi detached town house
• Newly installed high quality kitchen/diner
• Walk in wardrobe to master bed • Driveway & Garage

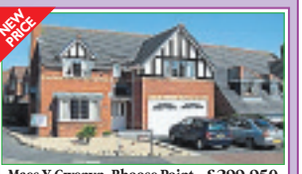
Barry Road, Barry - £169,950
• First time to the market place • Unique 3 bed detached • 2 reception rooms • Set in a generous plot with potential to extend • Conservatory • No chain

Clos Tyniad Glo, Barry - £179,950
• Modern 3 bed detached • Waterfront estate
• Open plan Kitchen/Diner • Ensuite
• Driveway & Integral garage

Charles Place, The Knap - £209,950
• Traditional 4 bed, 3 storey family home • Cul-de-Sac
• 2 reception rooms • No Chain • Conservatory
• Sought after area - close to beaches

Colcot Road, Barry - £229,950
• 3 bed semi • [Approx] 135ft landscaped rear garden • 2 reception rooms • Large family kitchen/diner • Utility room & summer room/play house

Cwm Barry Way, Barry - £249,995
• Extended 4 bed semi • Downstairs w/c
• Utility Area • Modern kitchen/Breakfast rm
• Modern bathroom • Viewing highly recommended



Maes Y Gwenyn, Rhoose Point - £299,950
• Modern 4 double bed detached • Conservatory
• 2 reception rooms • Utility room • Downstairs shower room, f/floor family bathroom & Ensuite

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50 Rhodfa Sweldon, Barry

• Modern End Link
• Three Bedrooms
• Beautifully Presented
• Large Lounge
• Landscaped Gardens
• Ideal Family Property

£169,995

91 Westward Rise, Barry

• Traditional Semi Detached
• South Facing Garden
• Three Good Sized Bedrooms
• Two Reception Rooms
• Fitted Kitchen
• Ideal Family Home

£205,000

17 Wenvoe Terrace, Barry

• Superb Mid Terraced
• Stunning Interior
• Magnificent Sea Views
• Three Bedrooms
• Fully Fitted KItchen
• Landscaped Gardens

£185,950

102 Treharne Road, Barry

• Modern Semi Detached
• Three Bedrooms
• Two Reception Rooms
• Two Bathrooms
• Superbly Presented
• Ideal Family Property

£139,950

25 Clos-y-Fulfran, Barry

• Superb Executive Detached
• Six Bedrooms
• Superb Interrupted Channel Views
• Beautifully Presented
• Spacious Living Accommodation
• Landscaped Gardens

£365,000

11 Ty Capstan, Barry

• Modern First Floor Apartment
• Very Well Presented
• Lounge with Balcony
• Two Bedrooms
• Master En-Suite
• Views Over Harbour

£109,950

11 Fern Drive, Barry

• Modern End Link
• Two Bedrooms
• Lounge Diner
• Upvc Double Glazing
• Ideal First Time Buyer
• No Chain

£109,950

4 George Street, Barry

• Traditional Mid Terraced
• Three Bedrooms
• Close to Town Centre
• Upvc Double Glazing
• Spacious Accommodation
• No Chain

£114,950

26 Woodham Park , Barry

• Modern End Link
• Superbly Presented
• Three Bedrooms
• Conservatory
• Spacious Accommodation
• No Chain

£156,950

133 Jenner Road, Barry

• Traditional Mid Link
• Four Bedrooms
• New Fitted Kitchen
• Recently Refurbished
• Ideal Family Home
• No Chain

£164,950

40 Heol Eryr Mor, Barry

• Semi Detached Property
• Three Storey
• Three Bedrooms
• Beautifully Presented Throughout
• Superb Sea Views
• Large Gardens

£189,950

21 Gelyn-y-Cler, Barry

• Executive Detached Property
• Superbly Presented
• Four Bedrooms
• Master En-Suite
• Large Gardens
• Quiet Cul-de-Sac

£217,500

3 Westward Rise, Barry

• Superb Semi Detached
• Sea Views
• Immaculate Condition
• Three Bedrooms
• Landscaped Gardens
• Ideal Family Home

£242,500

49 Rheidol Drive, Barry

• Superbly Presented Property
• Cul de Sac Location
• Show Home Quality Throughout
• Two En-Suites
• Set in Large Gardens
• Ideal Family Home

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2 Woodham Park, Barry

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£315,000

Thistle Cottage, St Athan
Well appointed. 3 bedrooms. Classic cottage style. Detached family home. Gas Fired heating. Double glazed. Immediate possession available.
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NEW £265,000

Boverton Brook, Boverton
Substantial detached house. 4 beds. 2 Recps. 3 Bath. Fantastic kitchen fitted 2008. Conservatory. Utility. Cloaks/WC. UPVC. GCH. Private south west garden.
Call Simon 01446 791963

NEW PRICE £255,500

Newbarn Holdings, Flemingston
Semi detached home. 2 bedrooms & 2 reception rooms. Kitchen with french patio doors. Conservatory. Family bathroom. Gas fired heating. Double glazed. Open countryside views.
Call Simon 01446 791963

NEW PRICE £225,000

Glenn Cottage, Llantwit Major
Period 2 bedroom cottage. Historic location. 2 reception rooms. Kitchen/breakfast. Bathroom & ensuite. Private cottage garden.
Call Simon 01446 791963

NEW £195,000

Carmarthen Close, Llantwit Major
Detached Family Home. 3 Bedrooms. Well presented. Family kitchen/Diner. Gas fired heating. Double glazed. Off road parking. Internal Viewing Rec.
Call Simon 01446 791963

£135,000

Eagleswell Road, Llantwit Major
Semi Detached house. 3 Bedrooms. Close to Local Primary Sch. UPVC DG. Gas CH. Outbuilding. Westerly Rear Garden.
Call Simon 01446 791963

NEW £104,950

Mallory Close, St Athan
4 Bedrooms. End of Link. Priced for Quick Sale. Double Glazed. Gas Fired Heating. Conservatory. Early Viewing Recommended.
Call Simon 01446 791963

£99,950

Partridge Road, St Athan
Middle terraced home. 2 bedrooms Well presented. Popular location. Open green aspect. Off road parking
Call Simon 01446 791963

NEW £126,995

Beaufort Way, Rhoose
2 bed semi with garage, lounge/diner, kitchen/breakfast room, stunning bathroom, gas ch, upvc dg, no chain, gardens & driveway.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

£159,950

Llanmead Gardens, Rhoose
3 bed semi with large garden, living room, kitchen, cloaks/wc, bathroom/wc, gas ch, upvc dg, 2 car drive & gardens.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

£194,950

Celtic Way, Rhoose
4 bed super extended semi, 3 receptions, fabulous kitchen/diner, GF shower room, FF bathroom, gas ch, upvc dg, store garage, gardens & 2 car drive.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

£199,950

Wesley Avenue, Rhoose
3 bed superb semi bungalow, lounge, kitchen, utility/breakfast room, refitted bathroom/shower, gas ch, upvc dg, no chain, superb gardens, drive & garage.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

£199,950

Heol Y Dryw, Rhoose Point
4 bed superbly positioned house, lounge with sea views, kitchen/dining room, 2 en-suites, bathroom/wc, upvc dg, gas ch, no chain, 2 car drive, garage & gardens.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

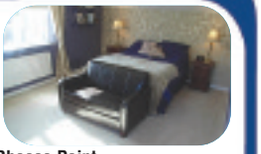
£250,000

Maes Lindys, Rhoose Point
4 bed superb detached, 4 receptions, extensive kitchen, cloaks, bathroom, en-suite, gas ch, upvc dg, no chain, 4/5 car parking & large gardens.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

£299,000

Nyth Y Dryw, Rhoose Point
4 double bed superb modern detached, 3 receptions, attractive sea views, cloaks, en-suite, bathroom, gas ch, upvc dg, no chain, double garage & sunny garden.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

NEW £317,500



Glyn Y Gog, Rhoose Point
5 double bed superb detached home, 2 receptions, fully fitted kitchen, bathroom, 2 en-suites, gas ch, upvc dg, 4 car drive, double garage & gardens.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

£395,000

Bryn Y Gloyn, Rhoose Point
5 bed stunning detached, 4 receptions, no chain, super kitchen/dining space, cloaks, 2/3 en-suites & bathroom, sauna & hot tub, large gardens, 6 car drive & garage.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

£109,950

Forster Street, Barry
Super Terraced Home with 2 Receptions and 2 Bedrooms. Modern kitchen, Utility and large 1st floor bathroom. Additional ground floor WC. Gas CH,
UPVC DG. Enclosed rear garden
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£109,950

Heol Cliffrydd, Barry Waterfront
Lovely Top Floor Apartment with reception, kitchen with fitted appliances and 2 Bedrooms. Bathroom and en-suite. Elec Heating and UPVC DG. Allocated Parking.
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£117,500

Kingsland Crescent, Barry
Traditional Terrace with 3 Receptions, 3 Bedrooms, Kitchen, 1st floor bathroom. Part Gas CH & UPVC DG.Gardens. Potential to split into 2 flats.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

£119,950

Caradoc Avenue, Barry
Semi with 2 Receptions, 3 Double Bedrooms, Kitchen and Utility. First Floor Bathroom. Gas CH, UPVC DG. Front Parking for 3 Cars and lovely garden.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

NEW PRICE £124,950

Wyndham Street, Barry
Superb located terraced home with Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, 1st floor bathroom and 3 Bedrooms. Additional Loft Area. Gas CH. UPVC DG. Forecourt and rear garden.
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WEST END £144,950

College Place, Barry
Traditional bay fronted semi with lounge, 3 Bedrooms, refitted kitchen and bathroom. Ideal for side Extension. GCH, UPVC DG. Superb sea views and gardens to front side and rear.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

£198,000

Beatty Close, Barry
Lovely detached house with 4 receptions, 4 bedrooms ,fitted oak kitchen, bathroom and cloaks. Gas CH, UPVC DG, Sea Views and Garage with 4 Car Drive. Gardens.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

NEW WEST END £204,950

Pontypridd Road, Barry
Superb Extended Semi with 3 Receptions, 3 Bedrooms, kitchen/breakfast room and refitted 1st floor bathroom. Gas C.H. UPVC DG. Front garden and 190' rear garden.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

WEST END £229,950

Pontypridd Road, Barry
Impressive Semi with 2 Receptions, 4 Bedrooms, Large Kitchen/Diner, Cloaks, En-suite and bathroom. Gas C.H. UPVC DG.Garage, Parking and gardens.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

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Please forward CV for the attention of
Clare Gore, The Glamorgan GEM, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL.
Closing date: Friday, 26th March, 2010.

Vacancy for Internal Auditor

The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2005 require all Town and Community Councils to maintain an adequate and effective internal audit of its accounting records and of its system of internal control. The Council is seeking to appoint a competent internal auditor with sufficient organisational independence and status to undertake the role. The person will be appointed on a self-employed basis and needs to have an understanding of the local government framework. The appointment will be for twelve months, with a possible renewal for up to five years.

Areas to be covered are Local Government Regulatory Framework and Corporate Governance, Maintenance of Accounting Records and Bank Reconciliations, Review of Payments including Petty Cash, Review of Income, Budgetary Control, Assessment and Management of Risk, Review of Assets, Staff Related Issues including Payroll, Investments and Loans. In addition, the Town Council would require, at least once per year, a formal audit report and completion of Section 4 of the Councils Annual Return being the conclusion and summary of the internal audit for the year.

All prospective candidates are requested to submit a proposal of services to the Executive Officer, Barry Town Council, Town Council Offices, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 8NA.

The closing date for the receipt of applications is Wednesday 31 March 2010.

Barry Town Council is an equal opportunities employer.

Caretaking Job available for holiday house in Southerndown
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Anniversaries

Golden Wedding Anniversary
12th March, 2010
WOLDRIDGE
Margaret & Ken
To a wonderful couple - we all love you both loads!
Nan & all the family.
XXXXX

Happy Golden Wedding Anniversary
12th March, 2010

Glen & Bob Cosslett
Love Tracey, Phillip and David.
XXXXX

Family Notices

ROACH
Arthur Trevlyn
On March 7, 2010, Trev of Llantwit Major. Beloved husband of the late Betty, loving father of David, step-father of Diane, Theresa, Ashlene and Nigel.
Funeral service on Wednesday March 17, in Coychurch Crematorium at 11.00am.
Family flowers only, but donation may be made to Cancer Research UK Cymru c/o Funeral Director, WA Brown & Son, Llantwit Major.

HARDING
Frederick Arthur George
Peacefully at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, on March 2, Frederick of Eton Street, Barry (formerly an immigration officer at Barry Docks and Rhoose Airport).
Dearly beloved husband of Phyllis, much-loved father of Ian and Lynne, father-in-law of Karla and Alan, loving grandad of Tina and Christopher, great-grandad of Nia.
Resting at AG Adams & Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until his service in the chapel on Monday March 15, at 2pm, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium. Family flowers only, but donations in lieu to the Noah's Ark Appeal, UHW Heath Park, Cardiff CF14 4XW.

BARNETT
Elizabeth (Betty)
Doug and Ian would like to thank all who attended Betty's funeral and for the many cards and messages of sympathy they have received. Special thanks to Rev Canon Mervyn Davies and St Illtud's clergy for the service and to WA Brown & Son for the funeral arrangements. Also thanks to all who have made donations to either Marie Curie Cancer Care or MacMillan Cancer Support.

LEWIS
Bernard William George
The family of Bernard Lewis would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for their kind words and support during this sad time. Thanks also to Father Maher for the lovely service and to WA Brown & Son Funeral Directors for their professionalism.
"Rest in peace, dear Dad"
Tony, Jill, Lucy and Anna

JONES
Clarice May
On March 6, at her home in St Athan, Clarice, beloved wife of the late William (Bill), dearly loved mother of Linda, Ken, Irene and the late John, dear mother-in-law of Denise and the late George, much loved grandmother of Sarah and Ian, Nicola and Jon, John and Jemima, Jonathan and the late Hayley, great-grandmother of Bethan and Megan.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday March 15th, service and interment 2pm at St Athan Church. No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to Marie Curie Nurses, Holme Tower, Bridgeman Road, Penarth.

Mother's Day

Lisa Sprudd
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY
Lots of love, Theo & Jason.
XXX

Lost & Found

FOUND
Ladies' leather gloves
Left at Twinning Coffee Morning on Saturday, March 6.
Please ring 01446 794729 (evening)

FOUND
Broad St. Garden Centre, Barry
Young, friendly Ginger Tom Cat with brown collar.
Tel: 07973 380361

Birthdays

Happy 30th Birthday
Ceri Morgan
March 18th

Love, Jordan, Ampie and all the Lindsays.
xxx

HAPPY 18th BIRTHDAY • HAPPY 18th BIRTHDAY
SOPHIE MERCER
Happy 18th Birthday on 11th March 2010
Lots of Love, Mum, Dad, Tommy, Cameron, Sam and all the family
x x x

HAPPY 18th BIRTHDAY • HAPPY 18th BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday
David Elliott
Congratulations on your 40th Birthday on 11th March 2010
All our love, Mum, Pete, Karen, Adele & family.
XXXX

Birth Notices

Congratulations to Annie and Paul on the birth of
JOSEPH
Baby Boy
24th February 2010
Lots of love, Mum, Dad, James, Sarah, Melanie, Rosie, Oliver and Aaliyah-Jane.
✗✗✗

Congratulations
Lyndon & Iuliana Haberfield
on the birth of
Michael Nicholas
"A Magnificent Baby Boy"

25th February, 2010
10lb 8ozs
Lots of love from the very proud Grandma & Grandad Haberfield
x x x x

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Excitement mounts on St David's Day at Rhws Primary!

CHILDREN at Rhws Primary School celebrated St. David's Day in style with an eisteddfod that had everyone waiting in suspense.

Pupils from reception to year-6 had entered a wide range of competitions; from handwriting to art, from story-writing to music and recitation – so everyone was waiting eagerly to find out the winning places.

Junior children carried out Welsh activities with their infant buddies, from folk dancing to cooking, from creating a shadow puppet theatre of a Welsh story to castle and dragon model-making.

Children from each class presented their activities to the rest of the school.

Then the moment all had been waiting for arrived – the winner of the Bard writing competition was finally announced, with the chairing ceremony, and the winner was... Jessica Walton.

Finally, the day's points were totalled to reveal the winning house – *da iawn Ty Gwyn!*

Jessica Walton – the winner of the Bard writing competiton.

Competitors line up for 40-mile race

Ready, steady, go... for the Barry show of ultra-endurance!

by MICK McGEOCH

THIS Sunday, March 14, Jenner Park plays host to a quite remarkable athletic event – the Barry 40 Miles Track Race.

Every year since 1986, the cream of the UK ultra distance running scene has migrated to Barry for this unique challenge, making it the longest running annual 'ultra' in the UK.

For these athletes, a marathon simply isn't far enough – for 40 miles equates to slightly further than a marathon and a half.

In addition, 40 miles represents almost 161 laps of the track, making it a fascinating mix of physical endeavour, mental strength and strategic nous.

And there's talent aplenty, as 57 world record performances have been set in the previous 23 events, and three previous winners of the Barry race have used the event as a springboard to winning global 100 kilometre titles.

This year's field numbers 17, slightly smaller than usual. Four of the athletes are ladies, and the ages of the athletes range from 33 to 76. Nine of the runners will also be contesting the Welsh Ultra distance Championship, which is being incorporated into the event for the 21st time.

Last year's impressive winner, George Dayantis from Christchurch Runners in Hampshire returns to defend his title. George led virtually from gun to tape twelve months ago, and his winning time of 4:22:57 was remarkable in the very squally conditions.

George's potentially toughest challenge should be provided by Mark Roberts from Swansea Harriers. At 39, Mark is nine years George's junior, but he certainly has experience on his side. Mark is a former winner of both the Cardiff and Snowdonia marathons, and can also point to a 6 hour 51 minute clocking in the Comrades Ultra marathon in South Africa.

The ladies event looks a fascinating contest on paper. Sharon Gayter, from North York Moors AC won the inaugural Commonwealth 24 hour gold medal at Keswick last September, her winning distance of 140.7 miles was a personal best and ranked her No: 4 in the world for 2009.

She has been the UK No:1 lady at this distance for 13 years, and has just returned from winning the Trans-Slovenia race. However, Sharon will face a tough challenge from Emily Gelder, who in her first ultra season last year ran seven events and won the tough Dartmoor Discovery Race.

Two local ladies will also give Sharon a fight. Jen Salter, from Thornhill, has a marathon best of 3 hours 18 minutes and was the first UK lady finisher in last year's Marathon des Sables across the Sahara Desert, a race she is training for this year.

Loretta Daley from Whitchurch, has three Welsh ultra distance titles to her name, from 2006-08, and a marathon best of 3 hours 35 minutes.

Another local athlete to follow will be Gary Hyatt. Gary has completed the Barry 40 on eight occasions, and will be looking to post a new Welsh record in the over 60 section.

Gary has also completed every London Marathon since 1982, an event he will be contesting again this year. Team Hyatt, Gary and wife Pip, and daughters Kate and Sally have been great supporters of the race for many years in providing refreshments for the army of volunteers and supporters who will be lap recording and providing athletes with drinks, food, changes of clothing and all-important vocal support.

Every athlete has a tale to tell, and none more inspirational than 76-year-old Geoff Oliver. Geoff has already set three world best performances at Barry at 30 miles, 50 kilometres and 40 miles in the age 70-74 category, and now turns his attention to the 75-79 age group.

First over-75 at last year's London Marathon in a remarkable 3 hours 35 minutes, as well as subsequently setting new world best marks at 100 miles and 24 hours (111 miles) for the over 75s at Tooting in October 2009, don't bet against Geoff setting more records here!

As always, start time is 10am and admission for this amazing show of endurance is free!

GREAT OCCASION FOR TOWN AS BARRY VETS HOST FRENCH GUESTS

by PAUL HALEY

OVER the weekend that Wales played France, Barry Rugby Club played host to French guests from Beauvais and Fleury-Narbonne for an excellent celebration of rugby, friendship, and the entente cordial.

With Wales having lost to France on the Friday evening, the Saturday tournament at Barry's Reservoir Field was about trying to restore Welsh pride.

The opening game saw a youthful Fleury Veterans team play a very open running style of play for 15 minutes against Beauvais Les Independents, until the heavy conditions took their toll.

The large crowd of spectators were treated to vintage running rugby that was loudly applauded.

Fleury were eventual winners 32 points to 21.

Barry Veterans then played Fleury, hoping that fresh legs would help them beat the younger French team.

Grantley Harris soon opened the scoring for Barry with a scything run from halfway, to the delight of all the Scrummies present.

But this was not to be an easy game, with the visitors soon responding. After a few handbags being thrown, following Barry Booker making a strong tackle in the centre, the game developed into a battle, with honours even.

With time running out, Gerwyn Pugh made the tackle of the tournament with a double tackle of two men out wide to save Barry's blushes.

The final game of the day was Barry versus Beauvais, which was also played for the Nick Jones Memorial Trophy.

With some old club stalwarts turning out for Barry Veterans, even older spectator stalwarts were treated to a try fest.

Paul Delaney sold a dummy then did his former usual head-down right hand-out approach like Superman – and did a Maori side-step through four players.

Rhydian Scott unfortunately suffered every veteran's nightmare – a run in try from the halfway line.

He followed this up with the conversion, and then had to take a long slow walk back for the kick-off, keeping the referee waiting while he got his breath back!

Paul McArthur, for the first time in his career, caught a ball from the kick-off. Making his debut at prop, Clive Thomas had a blinder of a game.

Tommy Tutssel was put clean away out wide, but unselfishly slowed down to pass back inside to Paul Delaney for a knock-on.

Mike Bubbins looked for comedy value when he had a disagreement with his opposite number who looked old enough to be his grandfather.

Barry Veterans made 15 substitutions for the second half, mainly due to fatigue and the fact that the bar was open!

Barry ran out eventual winners at 19-0 to retain the Nick Jones Memorial Trophy, which was later presented by family members in the clubhouse.

Scott Nelson from the junior section did a marvellous job of running the line in front of rowdy/boisterous supporters.

Former Barry player, poacher turned gamekeeper, referee Russell Clarke did a great job all afternoon and the club much appreciated him journeying to Barry from Hampshire for the day.

Following the games and excellent catering by Ian Peters of the 4th Horseshoe, Barry Male Voice Choir raised the roof of the clubhouse by leading the communal singing, led by conductor Madamoiselle Dorothy Connell.

With songsheets to hand, the atmosphere was electric with classic rugby songs, such as *'Bread of Heaven'*, *'Calon Lan'*, followed by the Welsh national anthem and *'The Marseilles'*, sung with equal vigour by everyone present.

After such a great performance, Beauvais extended a welcome to Barry Male Voice Choir to perform in the spectacular Beauvais Cathedrale.

During an interlude, Fleury sang their club drinking song and produced more than 50 bottles of wine for everyone, from a vineyard owned by one of their players.

The camaraderie continued as all teams watched Ireland beat England in the last few minutes of their Six Nations Match.

Then, Barry Veteran Norman Pereira entertained everyone in a way that only he could.

He gave a masterclass in how to play a crowd by giving a bilingual concert that filled the dance floor.

This was a day that has already gone down in the folklore of Barry Rugby Club and in the words of a more famous Welsh poet and songwriter: "*I know, coz I was there*!"

Barry Rugby Club Veterans would like to thank sponsors: Watkins and Gunn Solicitors, Jimmy Lye & Friends, Ian Hardy, Hedley Stephenson, Richie Davies, Robertsons Solicitors, and Guy Sillett.

Special thanks to the Vale Council for a great touch – installing road signs to welcome our visitors as they arrived along Port Road. This was especially appreciated.

Thanks also go to Barry Male Voice Choir, Norman Pereira, Ian Peters, Carol and bar staff, Coors, Russell Clarke, and others.

A big thank you to all the Barry RFC Veterans organising committee, especially Charlie Chucas for his excellent chairmanship.

Star switches to rugby league

GARETH THOMAS (35), the most capped Welsh rugby union player of all time, making 100 appearances for his country, has ended months of speculation by joining the north-Wales based Super League outfit, Crusaders.

He explained: "When my old team mate Iestyn Harris called me up and talked to me about the Crusaders and what they are doing in Wrexham, it soon became apparent that it was a challenge I could not resist.

"I am really excited by the ambition of the Crusaders, and playing for someone of the experience and reputation of Brian Noble and Iestyn Harris really excites me.

"This move was not about money, but about a chance of a fresh challenge on the field, and an opportunity to promote rugby in north Wales off the field."

Gareth Thomas started his his first class career at Bridgend. He then spent a spell at Cardiff from 1997 before rejoining home town club Bridgend in 2001 and captaining them to a Welsh Premier Division title in 2003, the last Welsh Premier title before the regions were formed.

He then joined the new regional club Celtic Warriors for the 2003-04 season and when they were disbanded a year later, signed for Toulouse which he helped to a Heineken Cup Final victory in 2005 after a victory over Stade Français at Murrayfield, before returning to Wales to play for Cardiff Blues in 2007.

He also holds the record for most international caps for his country, having made 100 appearances for Wales from 1995. He surpassed the Wales try record previously held by Ieuan Evans in 2004 against Italy, but this was beaten by Shane Williams in 2008.

He was capped three times by the British and Irish Lions during their 2005 tour against New Zealand. Following injury to Brian O'Driscoll in the opening minutes of the first test against New Zealand, he was made captain for the second and third tests of the series, becoming the ninth Welsh skipper in Lions history.

Good start to season for Cadoxton Tae Kwon Do

Left to right back row: Jamie Halford, Ben Mort, Morganne Gomez Jones, Emily Stavert, Liam Rees, Jon Hawkins. Middle row: Matthew Bennett, Thomas Haysham, Lucy Newman, Charlotte Sullivan. Front row: Hayley Mattey, Ollie Tipples and Morgan Stavert Hawkins. Missing are Bradley Halford and Morgan Harrhy.

RECENTLY, the Cadoxton Schools of Tae Kwon Do attended the first of a series of five Welsh masters' tournaments hosted by Mal Johns of WOMA.

Points are awarded to the first four places in each category, resulting in a grand champion at the end of the series.

Young Morgan Stavert Hawkins got the club off to a good start, taking second in point and second in the continuous sparring. In only his second competition, Ollie Tipples came away with a creditable third in point and second in continuous sparring.

Ever-improving Lucy Newman was first in the point and second in the continuous sparring. Her training partners, Hayley Mattey and Charlotte Sullivan both went on to take third in the point sparring.

Showing his determination, Thomas Haysham took first in a hard-fought continuous bout and third in the point sparring. Improving on last year, Matthew Bennett was first in the continuous and second in the point sparring.

Taking her opponents by surprise, Emily Stavert came away with first in continuous and second in point sparring. Although Liam Rees missed a lot of squad training sessions, he went on to take first in continuous and third in the point sparring.

Having to fight up a category in the boys continuous sparring, Bradley Halford just missed out on a medal, but went on to take first in the point sparring section.

Morgan Gomez Jones just missed out on a medal position in the point, but she went on to take second in continuous sparring. The inexperienced Ben Mort fought his way through to take first in point sparring.

Having moved up to the men's sections, Jamie Halford took second in both the men's continuous and point sparring, with Jon Hawkins beating Jamie to first in continuous sparring.

The club are now in serious training for the world games, which are being held in Ireland during August, and are actively seeking sponsors for this event.

For further information and training time, telephone 01446 406372.

Cowbridge man is Canada coach

A FORMER pupil at Cowbridge Comprehensive School has been appointed to a senior coaching post with Canadian rugby.

Dustin Hopkins, who has been appointed to senior coaching post with Canadian rugby.

Dustin Hopkins is now the coach development manager for Rugby Canada – a new role created by the International Rugby Board (IRB) to improve coaching standards.

In his post, he will be working with Canada's high performance director, the former Cardiff player and coach, Geraint John to identify and train coaches.

For the new post, Dustin will move from his home in Calgary to a new base in Vancouver Island.

We welcome your sports items. Please email them to the Editorial Department at: ggem@internet-today.co.uk

St Hilary's David wins Hereford's big race

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

DAVID PRICHARD (19) who hails from St Hilary near Cowbridge, landed the principal race – the £7,514 Jumprite Handicap Hurdle – at Hereford last week on *Bella Haze*, an eight-year-old bay mare owned, bred and trained by Peterston-super-Ely farmer Phil Dando.

David Prichard, who rode Bella Haze at Hereford, is seen here on Mountain Lily, jumping the last fence on the way to winning the Members' race at Brecon in 2008.

Picture by Sedgmore Sporting Prints.

Backed from 6-1 to 4-1, *Bella Haze*, who was winning for the fifth time under rules, made all the running just as she did when winning under her young rider at 20-1 at Ludlow earlier in the year.

Bella Haze, who may run next at the Cheltenham National Hunt Festival meeting, won by one and a quarter lengths from *Mister Pous* ridden by Ogmore's Nick Williams.

Kenfig Hill's John Flint, who is enjoying his best ever season since he took out a full licence in 2004/05, saddled his 13th winner of the season when his *Raquel White* took the opener at Ludlow on Thursday.

Raquel White, who was ridden by his son Rhys, beat the Aberthin-trained horse *Hucking Hero*, ridden by the legendary AP McCoy.

Cowbridge squash teams enjoy mixed fortunes on court

FOLLOWING their championship set back at Newport the previous week, Cowbridge A Bar 44 squash team bounced back to the top of South Wales Division Two East B with a fantastic 4-1 win against championship rivals Caldicot B.

Skipper Nick Guard was forced to bring in a couple of reserves to replace A team regulars Richard Ford (unavailable for selection) and Niall Sloan (injured).

The B team No1 and No4, Simon Payne and Chris Ranger respectively, stepped up to the plate and scored points for the cause.

Ranger managed to level his match at 1-1 but after a hard-fought third, losing 7-9, finally went down 1-3, while Payne played in a real nail-biter taking a 2-0 lead (9-7, 9-7) before losing a tie-break third.

He then finished strongly 9-2 in the fourth to post an excellent 3-1 win.

Garfield Leask dropped the first game 5-9, but settled into a consistent rhythm to take the final three by the same margin (9-4) at No3.

Jon Bisson repeated his previous week's 3-0 performance with another at No2 and didn't appear to be in any trouble after taking the first game in a 10-9 tie-break.

So, with the match won there was less pressure on Nick Guard to win, but points gained would put more distance between his team and the opposition.

He was 0-2 down but came back to win 3-2 (3-9, 9-10, 9-1, 9-4 9-4) – a great result that see the As back on top by three points from Caldicot and five points ahead of now third-placed Newport.

The B team however, continued their slide down the South Glamorgan Division One table with another 2-3 reverse – this time at Barry (a team they had beaten 5-0 earlier in the year).

Club skipper Russ Watts should be 'put out to grass' after his performance at No5, easily handing all the points to the younger Paddy Tyler.

Colin Baxter worked himself into a 2-0 lead but could not hold on and went down in the fifth.

Chris Ranger found himself 2-2 at No3 but could not find enough to secure the fifth and also went down 2-3.

Fortunately for the Bs good points were scored at Nos 2 and 1 with both Paul Reynish and Simon Payne posting 3-1 wins (match score 10-15). The Bs are now in a relegation place but have a game in hand with bottom-placed St Mellons – a must win fixture.

WELSH MASTERS

Several Cowbridge and Vale squash players featured in the Welsh Masters Squash Championships in Swansea last weekend. The event decides Welsh honours for players aged 35 and upwards in five-year categories.

Highlight of the weekend saw Carolyn Guard from St Nicholas, now playing for Barry ladies, taking the over-40 title for the second year running, defeating Swansea's Joanne Williams 10-8 in the fifth set in a match lasting 1 hr and 20 minutes.

In the men's over-50 category for the first time Mike Workman from Ystradowen (seeded number two) faced the number one seed Jon Evans, now based in the north of England. The result went with the form book with Evans winning 3-0.

The Cowbridge men's team numbers one and two, Nick Guard and Jon Bisson respectively, both featured heavily in the men's over-45 category with Jon Bisson being defeated 3-0 by Ian Fenner-Evans of Caldicot in the semi-final, and Nick Guard losing 3-1 to Mark Huxtable of Newport in the quarter-final but not before defeating the number four seed, Del Hopkins from Wrexham, a few hours before.

RW/NG

'NEEDLESS' RED CARD NEARLY COSTS DINAS AGAINST TON PENTRE

***RIGHT:** The Dinas Powys first team are pictured with two sides from their under-7s age group; the under-7s entertained the spectators at half-time.*

THIS certainly was an eventful match for Dinas forward Joe Hinds – one minute the hero, scoring two goals to help the home side to a comfortable lead, and the next the villain, by getting himself needlessly sent off for a second bookable offence when they were seemingly cruising to a good win against a side in fourth position in the league.

It took the visitors just five minutes to get on the score-sheet, when a good right wing cross was left by a Dinas defender. As the ball was put back across the area, Lloyd Toghill had the easiest of chances to head past Peter Blaine in the Dinas goal.

To their credit, the home side came back immediately with a Paul Carro shot saved by Leighton James in the Ton goal and Anthony Roberts heading wide from a Mark Dunford cross.

The Dinas pressure started to tell on the Ton defence and when they conceded a free-kick 35 yards out, Jacob Rudman found Lloyd Davies on the edge of the six-yard box and he made no mistake heading past the keeper for the equaliser.

Dinas were starting to play with some confidence, passing the ball around well and good play by Paul Carro and Mark Dunford gave Carro the chance to shoot with the keeper pushing the ball away from goal.

A poor clearance by the Ton keeper gave Mark Dunford a chance, but he was grateful to his defence for getting him out of trouble.

Dunford was causing the visiting defence problems and he saw another shot blocked before Dinas took a deserved lead. Again it was Dunford the provider, this time with a pass finding Joe Hinds whose shot from 20 yards found the back of the net.

The home side increased their lead just five minutes later, as young full-back Tom Hutton got past his marker before crossing for Hinds to head in from eight yards to send Dinas in a half-time with a deserved 3-1 lead.

At half-time the crowd were entertained with a mini football game by two sides from Dinas under-7s and at next week's game against Afan Lido, the crowd can look forward to another when Dinas Wolves will provide the entertainment.

In the second half, the home side continued where they left off with Paul Carro shooting over, but they were grateful to their defence when a dangerous cross into the area was cleared.

Dinas got the fourth goal their play deserved and again it was Tom Hutton the provider, his header finding Mark Dunford who made no mistake from 15 yards.

More good passing forced Ton to concede a corner and Hinds headed over from five yards when he had a clear chance for his hat trick.

Wayne Antoniazzi had a good chance to get one back for the visitors and Dinas were grateful to keeper Peter Blaine for keeping their lead intact.

Then came a moment of madness from Joe Hinds when he attempted to stop Ton taking a quick free-kick. He was given his second yellow card and sent off.

This was just the incentive the visitors needed and Dinas were forced on the defensive. They held out until Lloyd Toghill got his second of the game, hooking the ball in from eight yards.

Welsh League Division One

DINAS POWYS	**4**
TON PENTRE	**3**

A couple of minutes from time, Ton were awarded a corner with Leon Young heading in at the near post to give the home side an anxious few minutes, but they managed to hold out for all three points.

This Saturday, Dinas entertain another team from the upper reaches of the table, with Afan Lido the visitors in another stern test of Dinas' revival, kick-off 2.30pm.

Squad: 1 Peter Blaine, 2 Tom Hutton, 3 Owain Adams, 4 Lloyd Davies(1), 5 Anthony Roberts 6 Rhodri Foote, 7 Ricki Morgan, 8 Jacob Rudman, 9 Joe Hinds(2), 10 Mark Dunford (1), 11 Paul Carro, 12 Karl Steele, 14 Steve Provis, 15 Josh Reffell, 16 Nathan Hosgood.

For news and fixtures see the club's web site: www.dinaspowysfc.co.uk

MW

Ladies meeting arranged

LLANTWIT MAJOR Bowls Club (men's section) are holding their pre-season meeting on Thursday, March 18 at 7pm in the bowls pavilion.

All members are urged to attend, new members are welcomed and free coaching is available.

This an important season for the club as it is celebrating its 50th year as a club and many events have been arranged.

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175/70R14 Bridgestone B250	£59.46	£112	£210	175/70R14 Avon ZT5	£47.88	£90	£170	175/70R14 Tenyal	£33.60	£62	£115
175/65R14 Bridgestone B250	£52.80	£89	£170	175/65R14 Avon ZT5	£40.94	£75	£140	175/65R14 Tenyal	£33.12	£60	£115

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185/65R14 Bridgestone B250	£65.40	£120	£230	185/65R14 Avon ZV3	£50.11	£95	£185	185/65R14 Tenyal	£35.72	£67	£130
185/65R15 Bridgestone EH300	£73.60	£132	£255	185/65R15 Avon ZV3	£53.86	£102	£199	185/65R15 Tenyal	£37.21	£70	£135
195/65R15 Bridgestone B250	£82.14	£108	£205	195/65R15 Avon ZV3	£60.41	£95	£185	195/65R15 Tenyal	£38.47	£73	£140

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195/60R15 Bridgestone EH300	£75.46	£135	£260	195/60R15 Avon ZV5	£59.11	£115	£220	195/60R15 Maxxis	£43.47	£80	£150
195/65R15 Bridgestone EH300	£83.79	£110	£210	195/65R15 Avon ZV5	£52.87	£99	£190	195/65R15 Federal	£43.46	£80	£150
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225/45R17 Bridgestone RD050	£103.94	£199	£390	225/45R17 H Avon ZV5	£86.83	£165	£320	225/45R17 Hero	£54.71	£100	£190
225/40R18 H Bridgestone RD050	£132.40	£250	£480	225/40R18 H Avon ZV5	£101.44	£195	£375	225/40R18 Hero	£64.98	£120	£230

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06 **56 VOLVO XC90 2.4 D5 AWD (facelift) SE Geartronic AUTO.** In metallic silver with full black leather, colour satellite navigation, phone preparation, electric heated seats, climate control, parking sensors, 7 seats, only 58,722 miles **£19,995**

06 **56 BMW 2.0TD 320D SE 4-dr Saloon.** In Arctic grey with anthracite interior, automatic air con, upgraded alloy wheels, rear parking sensors, only 41,655 miles, fsh **£13,995**

06 **56 BMW 116i SE 5-dr** in sparkling graphite met with full Boston beige leather interior, comfort pack, cd, climate control, alloy wheels, reversing sensors, auxiliary I-pod connection, only 19,950 miles interior titanium trim, auto lights and auto wipers **£11,995**

05 **05 MERCEDES Benz 1.8 SLK 200 Compressor Auto 2-dr Convertible** in Tellur silver, black leather interior, climate control, multi function steering wheel, CD, alloys, only 61,000 miles, fsh **£16,995**

05 **05 MERCEDES Benz M-Class 2.7 TD ML270 CDi Automatic 5-dr Station Wagon.** In Brilliant silver with Orion grey leather interior, climate control, Bluetooth phone prep, privacy glass, heated seats, rear parking sensors, only 52,975 miles **£15,995**

04 **54 MERCEDES Benz CL500 5 litre 2-dr Auto coupe.** In tanzanite blue with java leather interior with BOSE sound system, AMG body styling, electric sunroof, only 48,245 miles **£19,995**

01 **51 JAGUAR S-Type 3.0 V6 4-dr Saloon Automatic.** In Pacific blue with cashmere beige full leather interior, climate control, CD, electric seats, rear parking sensors, only 55,810 miles **£5,995**

SPORTS

07 **07 HONDA Civc 2.0i V-Tec Type R GT 3-dr Hatchback** in Milano red with half suede sports seats, climate control, 18 inch alloy wheels, alarm, immobiliser, only 38,930 miles **£12,995**

06 **56 HONDA Civic 1.8i V-tec Type-S 3-dr Hatchback.** In alabaster silver with alcantara/suede interior, climate control, CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 24,405 miles **£10,495**

06 **06 VOLKSWAGEN Golf GT TDi 2.0 (140) 5-dr** in steel grey with dark interior, cd, dual climate control, cruise control, alloy wheels, electric mirrors, only 58,300 miles **£9,995**

06 **06 AUDI A3 1.9TDi Special Edition 3-Dr Hatchback.** In brilliant black with module black cloth interior, air con, CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, full Audi service history, one owner, only 55,390 miles **£9,495**

06 **06 FORD Focus 1.8TDCi Sport 5-dr Hatchback.** In panther black with dark flint interior, CD, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 55,315 miles **£7,495**

06 **55 TOYOTA Rav-4 2.2 D-4D T180 5-dr Station Wagon** in cadmium green with full Faro dark grey leather, colour touch screen satellite navigation, electric heated seats, blue tooth phone prep, cruise control, sunroof, dual climate control, rear parking sensors, only 50,730 miles **£14,995**

06 **55 AUDI A3 2.0T FSi 5-dr Sport Back** in Avus silver with matrix cloth interior. BOSE speaker system, 17 inch alloy wheels, front fogs, climate conrol, cd, only 39,280 miles **£11,995**

05 **05 MINI 1.6 Cooper S (Chilli Pack).** Black, black leather interior, a/c, alloys, cd, rear parking sensors, only 49,390 miles **£10,995**

04 **04 PORSCHE Carrera 3.6 Convertible** in lapis blue with metropole leather, bose speaker upgrade, starlight navigation, phone system, cruise control, trip computer, heated seats, sports exhaust systemm, full Porsche service history, hard top, only 42,761 miles **£29,995**

04 **54 VOLKSWAGEN Golf GTi 2.0T FSI (200ps) 3-dr.** In reflex silver with interlagos interior, climate control, traction control, tyre pressure monitor, trip computer, sports seats, alloy wheels, only 69,192 miles **£9,995**

04 **54 MG TF 1.8 135 Convertible.** In ignition blue with anthracite Sebring interior, alloy wheels, cd player, alarm and immobiliser only 27,100 miles **£4,995**

04 **04 RENAULT Clio 182 Sport 3-dr Hatchback.** In met blue with half leather/suede interior, sports seats, traction control, cruise control, climate control, alloys, 6 cd auto changer, only 51,314 miles **£5,995**

04 **53 LAND ROVER Freelander 1.8S 3-Dr Hard Top.** In Bonatti grey with black dune interior, glass roof panels, air con, alarm, traction control system, only 54,460 miles **£5,495**

03 **53 MG TF 1.8 135bhp 2-door Convertible.** In starlight silver with black interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, CD, electric windows, only 30,845 miles **£4,495**

02 **52 VOLKSWAGEN Golf TDi (130) 5-dr Hatchback.** In Reflex silver with anthracite interior, alloy wheels, climate control, CD changer, only 68,990 miles **£5,995**

02 **02 MG ZS 2.5 180.** In anthracite black, with monaco ash interior with red inserts, alloy wheels, a/c, cd, colour coded bumpers, front fogs, alarm and immobiliser, only 62,310 miles **£2,995**

01 **Y AUDI TT Roadster 1.8T Quattro (225)** in met silver with full granite leather, 18" alloy wheels, heated seats, trip computer, cruise control + climate control, cd multi-changer with BOSE stereo upgrade, only 63,010 miles **£8,495**

00 **X TVR Tuscan 4 litre 360bhp.** In crystal topaz pearl blue with portland grey leather interior, cd, 18" spyder alloy wheels, e/windows, cat 1 alarm, e/mirrors, a/c, substantial workshop portfolio, supreme example, only 36,000 miles **£12,995**

99 **T BMW Z3 1.9 2-dr Convertible.** In Green with green leather interior, colour coded bumpers, CD, alloy wheels, electric hood, only 51,300 miles **£5,995**

FAMILY

06 **56 TOYOTA Corolla T2 Colour Collection, 1.4 5-dr Hatchback.** In eclipse black with silver fleck interior, a/c, alloys, colour coded side skirts, audio controls on steering wheel, one owner, only 32,415 miles **£7,995**

06 **06 FORD Focus C-Max 2.0 TDCi Zetec 5-dr MPV** in tonic blue with dark flint interior, cd, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 31,000 miles **£7,995**

06 **06 FORD Focus 1.6 115 Sport 5-dr Hatchback.** In Aquarius blue with Humy flint interior, air con, alloy wheels, CD, colour coded bumpers, immobiliser, only 36,600 miles **£6,495**

05 **55 RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique** in met platinum silver with ruche cloth interior, auto lights, auto wipers, air con, cd, clour coded bumpers, only 16,380 miles **£5,795**

04 **54 MG ZT-T 1.8T 160 5-dr Estate** in royal blue with Monaco ash leather interior, air con, alloy wheels, roof rails, alarm, only 32,000 miles **£5,995**

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04 **04 TOYOTA Avensis 2.0 VVTi T-Spirit Auto 4-dr Saloon.** Silver fern, st moritz charcoal leather, map gps nav system, climate, cruise, electric seat adjustment, only 55,065 miles **£6,495**

04 **04 RENAULT Megane 1.9 DCi 120 Dynamique 5-dr Hatchback.** In metallic silver, with anthracite interior, alloy wheels, CD, colour coded bumpers, air con, only 42,955 miles **£5,995**

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02 **52 AUDI A4 1.9 TDi SE.** In denim blue with phoenix blue upholstery, climate control, cd, alloys, only 26,075 miles **£7,995**

01 **51 VOLKSWAGEN Golf S 1.4 5-dr Hatchback.** In blue with dark interior, air con, CD, colour coded bumpers, service history, only 54,500 miles **£3,795**

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07 **07 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v 98 Expression 3-dr** in platinum silver met with voile interior, cd, air con, alloy wheels, remote central locking, elec windows, alarm and immobiliser, only 4,747 miles **£6,995**

06 **06 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Extreme 3-dr Hatchback.** In platinum silver with grey interior, alloy wheels, steering wheel mounted audio controls, colour coded bumpers, CD, only 19,860 miles **£5,995**

06 **55 TOYOTA Aygo 1.0 VVT-i Sport** in carbon quartz met with dark flint interior, alloy wheels, cd, remote central locking, alarm and immobiliser, elecctric windows, only 51,300 miles **£4,995**

05 **55 FORD KA Luxury 1.3 3-dr Hatchback.** In Tonic blue with ebony leather interior, air con, quick clear screen, CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 16,980 miles **£4,995**

05 **05 MINI 1.6 One (salt) 3-dr Hatchback.** In pure silver with anthracite interior, 6 CD changer, automatic dipping rear-view mirror, panoramic roof, body coloured bumpers, only 39,600 miles **£7,995**

04 **04 PEUGEOT 206 2.0 Coupe Cabriolet 2-dr** in platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, air con, cdm alloy wheels, alarm, only 43,895 miles **£6,495**

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04 **04 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Dynamique 5-dr Hatchback.** In Platinum silver with dark grey interior, sunroof, alloy wheels, CD, front fogs, only 37,700 miles **£4,495**

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L **93 AUSTIN Mini 1.3 Sprite 2-dr Saloon Automatic.** In night fire red with grey interior, all original specification, only 47,215 miles **£1,995**

07 **07 HONDA Civc 2.0i V-Tec Type R GT 3-dr Hatchback** in Milano red with half suede sports seats, climate control, 18 inch alloy wheels, alarm, immobiliser, only 38,930 miles **£12,995**

06 **56 HONDA Civic 1.8i V-tec Type-S 3-dr Hatchback.** In alabaster silver with alcantara/suede interior, climate control, CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 24,405 miles **£10,495**

06 **55 AUDI A3 2.0T FSi 5-dr Sport Back** in Avus silver with matrix cloth interior. BOSE speaker system, 17 inch alloy wheels, front fogs, climate conrol, cd, only 39,280 miles **£11,995**

06 **06 VOLKSWAGEN Golf GT TDi 2.0 (140) 5-dr** in steel grey with dark interior, cd, dual climate control, cruise control, alloy wheels, electric mirrors, only 58,300 miles **£9,995**

06 **06 FORD Focus 1.8TDCi Sport 5-dr Hatchback.** In panther black with dark flint interior, CD, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 55,315 miles **£7,495**

06 **06 FORD Focus 1.6 115 Sport 5-dr Hatchback.** In Aquarius blue with Humy flint interior, air con, alloy wheels, CD, colour coded bumpers, immobiliser, only 36,600 miles **£6,495**

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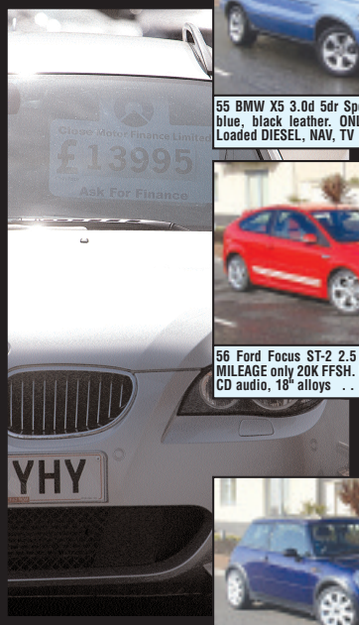

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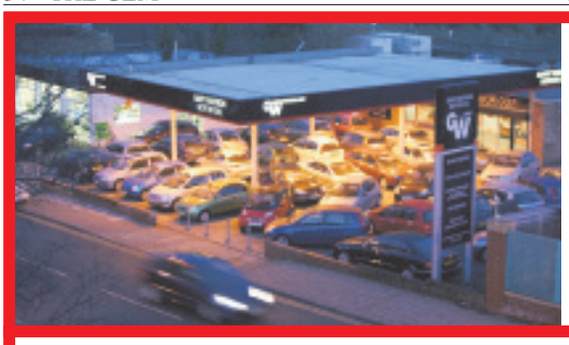

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GEM sport

New-look back row may hold key to unlock green fortress

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

ON January 28, 1882, Wales played their first ever international rugby match at Lansdowne Road, Dublin, whitewashing Ireland with four tries (two converted) in what contemporary accounts described as a heated affair – ironic considering it was billed as a 'friendly' taster the year before the Four Nations formally came into being!

It set the pattern for all future clashes between these two close, but proudly competitive Celtic cousins, with precious little quarter given on the field, but intense rivalry replaced by warm camaraderie off it, once the final whistle went!

The result has been some memorable moments over the 127 years and 112 meetings since then, which have seen Wales go on to record 62 wins to Ireland's 46, with six matches drawn.

With rare exceptions, they have been close-fought in every sense of the word – with often only a few points separating the two teams at the end, as typified by last year's cliff-hanger at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, when only Stephen Jones' agonisingly short penalty attempt in the dying seconds handed the Irish a 17-15 victory and their first Grand Slam for 61 years.

The year before, it was Wales who edged the honours by 16-12 on the way to their second Grand Slam in three years (in their 2005 Grand Slam year, the result was 32-20).

However, despite this and Wales' dominating record overall in terms of victories between the two sides, with 1,317 points scored compared to Ireland's 1,189, they have managed to scrape only three wins out of 11 in the last nine years, beginning with a 23-19 success in 2000.

It is a sobering thought for Welsh fans ahead of this weekend's 115th clash in Dublin, that statistics show the rest of the decade firmly belongs to the Irish, who have prevailed in some notable encounters, including five in a row from 2001 (36-6), 2002 (54-10), 2003 (25-24), and 2004 (36-15).

Not forgetting, of course, the convincing 31-5 result in 2006 that dashed any hopes of a back-to-back Welsh Grand Slam.

So the Welsh camp can be under no illusions about the scale of the fierce challenge that awaits them at the Croke Park fortress, on Saturday.

Ireland saw their dream of a historic back-to-back Grand Slam crushed by the title-hungry French, but have since got their Triple Crown bid back on track and will be confident of continuing their recent record against a Wales side, chronically prone to error and still shorn of key first choice personnel.

That is not to say, of course, that this undoubtedly gifted but frustrating young Welsh squad are not fully capable of making a mockery of statistics. Man for man, the gap between the two sides does not yawn wide.

However, as Wales have already been reminded to their cost in this year's Six Nations, individual talent by itself is not enough to prevail against the big boys in the playground – unless part of a concentrated and cohesive team effort, underlined by precise, error-free and disciplined application for the whole of 80 minutes.

The Welsh players now have just two opportunities left in this current campaign to prove they can put a complete team performance together, free of those persistent lapses in concentration that have stymied their displays so far.

If not, they will find the battle-hardened Irish every bit as unforgiving as the French – and an improving Italy would then relish the opportunity to cause yet another upset at the Millennium Stadium in a potential tussle for the dreaded Wooden Spoon.

As the cliche goes, there is still much to play for, and faced with a continuing casualty list, head coach Warren Gatland has had some hard thinking to do – particularly in the pack, before announcing the team to face Ireland.

His problems have been compounded by injuries to Mike Phillips and skipper Ryan Jones, who is replaced by Gloucester captain Gareth Delve, hitherto not even in the Six Nations squad. Luke Charteris reclaims his second row spot, while Matthew Rees returns as hooker.

Skippering the team at open side, in Ryan Jones' absence is Martyn Williams, who with Delve and Jonathan Thomas will be taking on the formidable Irish trio, in a back row contest that may well have a decisive bearing on the outcome.

WALES TEAM:
Lee Byrne; Leigh Halfpenny, James Hook, Jamie Roberts, Shane Williams; Stephen Jones, Richie Rees; Paul James, Matthew Rees, Adam Jones, Bradley Davies, Luke Charteris, Jonathan Thomas, Martyn Williams (captain), Gareth Delve.
***Replacements**: Huw Bennett, Rhys Gill, Ian Gough, Sam Warburton, Dwayne Peel, Andrew Bishop, Tom Shanklin.*

Barry Town seal win after sluggish start

BARRY TOWN	2
CARDIFF CORINTHIANS	0

WITH last week's excellent performance in mind, manager Gavin Chesterfield welcomed near neighbours Cardiff Corries to Jenner Park for this important first division match.

The supporters were hoping for another show of the increased confidence and improved performance shown last week at Bridgend Town.

But in the first half Barry failed to find their rhythm.

It was the Corries that took the plaudits in this period, their 'shoot on sight' tactic, and pressing of the ball policy clearly upset their more experienced opponents.

But for the crossbar and some excellent goalkeeping by Dan Bradley in the home goal, the visitors could easily have been three or four goals up by half time.

The Dragons created very little and were chasing the ball with little effect. Much against the run of play, it was the Dragons who took the lead right on the stroke of half time.

Recently returned Pakistan international Atif Bashir played the ball into the path of Rob Blatchford, who passed the ball into the box for striker Jaymes Dixon, with his back to goal, to cleverly back heel it into the net past the visiting keeper.

The half time whistle went just as the Radyr based outfit kicked off and they could rightly consider themselves unlucky to go behind.

Gavin must have really strained his tonsils during the break as the Dragons started the second half with all guns blazing and took the game to their visitors with some aplomb.

The experienced Damon Searle organised the defence and Kirk Huggins, Dan Clare and Atif Bashir were once again outstanding.

Michael Parkins, Sam Hartrey (playing against his former club), Nickie Jones and Rob Blatchford in midfield were finding space denied to them in the first half and things began to fall in place for the team to play some eye-catching football .

With striker Sam Small now holding the line well, Barry Town gained more room in which to operate. They took full advantage of this freedom midway into the second half when Jaymes Dixon, who had looked lively throughout, popped up in the box and from close in hit a half-volley into the net from a shot parried by the keeper.

Barry were now fully in control and their plucky opponents were forced to chase the game.

Final score 2 -0 to Barry Town.

Barry Town: Dan Bradley; Atif Bashir, Dan Clare, Damon Searle, Kirk Huggins; Rob Blatchford (sub Ian Jones), Michael Parkins (sub James Simpson), Sam Hartrey, Nickie Jones; Sam Small (sub Christian Mills), Jaymes Dixon. Subs not used – Lewis Cosslett, Lewis James.

The next fixture is Caerleon (away) on Saturday March 13, ko. 2.30.pm.

B.T.S.C. Lotto numbers: 3 4 5 6 7 10; no winners. Prize now £1,100.

Dave Cronk and David Cole

Barry Firsts outclass Old Penarthians

BARRY RFC	40
OLD PENARTHIANS	7

ON Saturday, Barry welcomed their near neighbours to a cold and breezy Reservoir Field.

Playing downhill into a moderate but biting east wind, the home side began where they left off last week – by attacking their opponents through the forwards.

Within 10 minutes, Barry deservedly took the lead by a short-range try by George, easily converted by Cummings.

Barry continued to spread the ball wide and an excellent pass by Gill put P O'Sullivan over near the posts for another converted try.

The home side, intent on playing positive rugby, concentrated on imposing their own game plan, while not being too concerned by that of the opposition.

Further success came after 20 minutes with an excellent move started behind their own 22-metre line.

The Barry scoring rate was maintained when both forwards and backs combined to put Provis under the sticks, making the conversion a formality.

Barry had established ascendancy in the set scrums; from the fifth heel against the head, the bonus try was scored by the ever-alert George.

A blot on the Barry copybook occurred towards the end of the first half. An Old Penarthian feed was won, but the clearing kick was charged down, despite the Barry half-backs being under no pressure.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16).

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